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Patten seizes control of state education in schools' reform

By JOHN O'LEARY AND MATTHEW D'ANCONA

PROPOSALS paving the way for a rapid increase in opting-out and introducing a tough new regime for schools judged to be failing their pupils were put forward yesterday in a white paper intended to transform state education.

John Patten, the education secretary, who wrote part of the 64-page document himself, described it as a blueprint for the state system for the next 25 years. Local education authorities will lose a number of traditional powers, and will have to surrender responsibilities to a new centralised funding body for grant-maintained schools where opting-out dominates either primary or secondary schools.

Mr Patten said that the proposals were "radical, sensible and in tune with what parents want". There was now a national consensus on education, which he hoped would lead to all schools opting out eventually.

An education bill to be tabled in the autumn will also merge the bodies advising the government on curriculum and examinations, and speed up the removal of surplus places. The white paper promised a crackdown on truancy, new procedures to review religious education, and an emphasis on morality in teaching.

All schools will be encouraged to opt out and specialise in specific subjects, such as technology or languages. Mr Patten said he expected there would be 1,500 grant-maintained schools by 1994 and more than 4,000 a year later. Fewer than 300 have opted out since the process was introduced in 1988. In the one ballot result declared yesterday, at Stoke Newington school, in north London, parents voted to stay with Hackney education authority.

FUNDING AND ADMISSIONS: a national funding agency for grant-maintained schools will share responsibility for admissions in areas where more than 10 per cent of pupils have opted out.

POWERS OF INTERVENTION: "hit squad" management teams will step into failing schools, which will then opt out without parental ballot; education secretary empowered to remove governors from grant-maintained schools.

OPTING OUT: applications for grant-maintained status to be speeded up and primary schools enabled to opt out in "clusters"; voluntary bodies enabled to found GM schools.

SELECTION AND SPECIALISATION: schools will be encouraged to specialise in subjects such as technology, languages or business studies, and will be able to apply for a "change of character" when they opt out.

CURRICULUM: the National Curriculum Council and School Examinations and Assessment to merge.

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES: delegation of power to schools will increase, but authorities will remain active in areas such as special needs, transport and monitoring attendance and compete to provide services to GM schools.

MORALITY AND PASTORAL CARE: authorities required to accelerate review of religious education; crackdown on truancy; classroom emphasis on right and wrong.

ents voted to stay with Hackney education authority.

However, the 30,000-word white paper, *Choice and diversity*, confirmed the end of the local authority monopoly that was the basis of postwar state education. Opting-out will be made easier, and councils' obligation to establish an education committee removed.

As soon as 10 per cent of an authority's pupils are in opted out schools, the new Funding Agency for Schools will share responsibility for allocating places. At least ten authorities are in this position already, and several more will join them when the system comes into operation next year. Once three-quarters of the pupils are in the grant-maintained sector, the new agency will assume total responsibility for admissions.

Those schools considered by inspectors to be "at risk" will be placed temporarily in

the hands of new education associations if their local authorities fail to secure improvements. They will then either be closed or given grant-maintained status.

Mr Patten said it would not be safe to hand such schools back to their authorities. He added he had a "little list" of failing schools which would be among the first to be visited by new independent teams of inspectors, who would advise on further measures.

John Major, writing in the foreword, said: "I am not prepared to see children in some parts of this country having to settle for a second-class education. Education can make or mar each child's prospects. Each one has but one chance in life."

Critics dismissed the government education blueprint for the next 25 years as virtually irrelevant to the needs of impoverished schools that needed more money, better facilities and a period of stability. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The government is more concerned about political structures and financial control than parents' rights and the needs of children."

Ann Taylor, Labour's education spokeswoman, said: "There will not be a penny extra for books or for more teachers, just more money spent on civil servants." She said the plans were a recipe for local confusion.

Full details, pages 6 and 7
Bryan Appleyard, page 10
Leading article, page 11



Pointing the way ahead: John Patten launching the schools blueprint yesterday

Bush vents anger on Iraq with talk of air strike

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

MILITARY confrontation between America and Iraq is likely soon, congressional leaders claimed last night after a briefing from President Bush at the White House yesterday.

Robert Dole, the Senate minority leader, said: "I think it is pretty predictable. It's probably going to happen, but we don't know when." Mr Bush expected President Saddam Hussein to mount another standoff and had told the leaders: "Who knows it may happen today, it may happen tomorrow and we will be back in the soup."

But Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, yesterday played down any suggestion of an immediate strike, saying: "I want to be cautious here. I sense people are ratcheting this up a little bit, in the sense that there is some sort of imminent action."

Mr Bush also indicated his anger over the deal reached at the weekend that excluded two Americans from the UN team to inspect the Baghdad agriculture ministry. Only inspectors from neutral countries will go in, and several senior administration figures feel that important principles have been compromised by allowing Iraq to say in the composition of UN teams.

The White House, which has asked the UN special commission to accelerate and increase inspections, was said to be furious that it was not shown the terms of the deal before it was approved by Rolf Ekeus, the head of the inspection team.

The president's tough talk came as American forces prepared to join Kuwaiti troops in an amphibious exercise just 150 miles from where Iraqi air units are mounting regular bombing raids on Shia Muslim rebels. The Pentagon also said that it might send Patriot missiles to Bahrain. On Monday, it announced that a battery of the missiles, which counter Iraqi Scud missiles, was being sent to Kuwait. And when a third carrier-led battle group arrives in the Mediterranean, America will have more than 200 naval warplanes for use in any air strikes against Iraq.

After the hour-long meeting yesterday between Mr

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Ministry access, page 10

TODAY IN THE TIMES

AN AUNT IN AGONY



Virginia Ironside is learning to cope with the death of her own father

Life & Times page 1

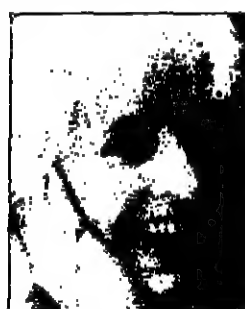
FLATTENED BY FANTASY



Lynne Truss on discovering the true nature of Catwoman

Life & Times page 5

FASCINATED BY SWEET FA



Dillie Keane tells why she plans to reform Fascinating Aida

Life & Times page 5

Channel 4 death claim

The High Court, hearing contempt charges against Channel 4, was told of allegations that a deputy chief constable in the RUC had plotted to kill a number of republicans. Page 3

Whip attack

Eugene Torre Blanche, the South African neo-Nazi leader, was attacked with a riding crop by his alleged lover, Jani Allan, a High Court libel jury was told. Page 2

Quick benefits

Stopping smoking produces tangible benefits to health within 48 hours, according to researchers. Page 4

Air village

Proposals for the country's first fly-in village, with parking space for light aircraft, near Telford in Shropshire, are likely to be approved today. Page 5

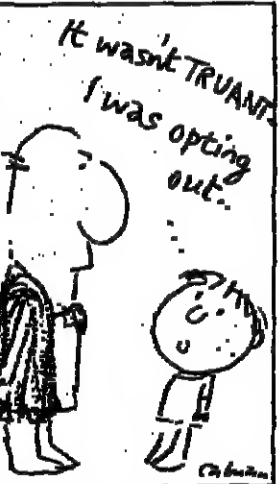
Military threat

The US is consulting its allies on the use of military force to protect the delivery of Bosnia relief aid. Page 8

UN aid alert

The UN has backed its resolution for a huge airlift of humanitarian aid to Somalia with a veto threat to the warring factions that failure to co-operate could provoke a UN military expedition. Page 11

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Lamont faces double attack

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A BLEAK economic survey suggesting that Britain remains locked in recession with no recovery in sight added to the woes of Norman Lamont yesterday as he tried to beat off attacks from Tory Eurosceptics for agreeing a minimum value-added tax rate of 15 per cent.

The Chancellor came under renewed criticism over the state of the economy after the CBI predicted that the outlook for the next few months remained flat, and the Conservative MP John Carlisle suggested he might have to go if he failed to reduce interest rates or leave the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Mr Lamont, however, hit back strongly, describing the deal reached in Brussels on Monday as a breakthrough, paving the way for the com-

pletion of the single market by next January and promising a "Europe without frontiers for business that benefits consumers as well."

Rather than easing the load on the Chancellor, the parliamentary recess has seen Mr Lamont coming under stronger pressure than ever before. The strain appeared to show during an ill-tempered performance on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme in which he repeatedly snapped at his interviewer and accused critics of the VAT deal of being "up the creek" and running a "complete scare". Mr Lamont was known to be angered at charges that he had surrendered sovereignty and that little attention had been focused on the wider positive aspects of the agreement.

Despite the increasingly vituperative sideways at him,

Mr Lamont is secure in his post: his fortunes are seen as being wholly tied to those of the prime minister who has explicitly put his faith in him and his economic policy.

However, the consistent run of poor economic news is making Conservative MPs more nervous by the day.

Days after Mr Lamont said the recovery would be "jagged" with a mixture of good and bad economic statistics, the CBI concluded that manufacturing output and orders fell during the past four months. Reports of a double dip recession were greatly exaggerated because the British economy did not recover sufficiently enough in the first

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Leading article, page 13
CBI gloom, page 17

Blue Arrow judge rapped over 'costly disaster'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE director of the Serious Fraud Office yesterday called for specialist judges to handle complex fraud trials after the Court of Appeal castigated Mr Justice McKinnon and the prosecution team for their part in the "costly disaster" of the marathon Blue Arrow fraud trial.

Lord Justice Mann said the year-long Old Bailey trial, one of the longest in English legal history, was an ordeal for the jury and a daily "punishment" for the accused. "This trial will rightly be regarded by the public as having been a costly disaster," he said.

George Staple, the SFO director, admitted there were "lessons to be learnt" from the trial which ran up legal bills estimated at between £35

million and £40 million; and pledged closer scrutiny of charges to ensure indictments in future were not overloaded. He also said the judgment underlined the need for a specialist corps of judges, trained to handle complex fraud trials.

The Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, welcomed the judgment and called for more discipline among prosecutors.

Jeffrey Bayes, its fraud spokesman, said: "I think that every trial judge at the beginning of a case should say to the prosecutor: 'Pick your best half-dozen charges and if you can't make one of those stick, then don't trouble the court.'"

Court's reasons, page 2

The game is up for Italy's Bribe City

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

A BOARDGAME based on a corruption scandal in Milan promises to be the favoured sport for millions of fashionable Italians at play on beaches and yachts this summer.

Two enterprising Neapolitan journalists are launching the game of *Tangentopoli* tomorrow. The name roughly translates as "Bribe City". *Tangentopoli* is Italian slang for a bribe.

Under the rules, players may take the part of one of the four main political groupings tainted by the affair, the Socialists, Christian Democrats, the former communist Democratic Party of the Left and the small "lay" parties. The aim is to win re-election to the city council using bribes from businessmen as campaign funds without being arrested by the Carabinieri on orders of a crusading magistrate. Other players

represent businessmen trying to obtain lucrative contracts for the extension of the Milan metropolitan railway system in return for payment of kickbacks to the parties.

The *Corriere della Sera* newspaper of Milan has described the game as a "ruthless nemesis" by its southern inventors, Maurizio Landi, 27, and Mimmo Cordopatri, 25. But Signor Landi denied that *Tangentopoli* was intended as a slap in the face for the northern city, which traditionally has prided itself on being the moral capital of Italy.

"The game is absolutely not an attack on Milan. We are convinced that the north of Italy has more of a future than us," Signor Landi said. "The game is based in Milan simply because the newspapers have spoken about Milan. But it could equally be based in Naples or Palermo."

There are two categories of players

in the game, politicians and businessmen. We are hoping that a future version will include mafiosi."

Signor Landi said he and his partner, both journalists with private television stations, are negotiating for sale of rights to the game for eventual large-scale distribution. "The game is well conceived and could sell successfully. We thought it up a few months ago because, being journalists, we know rather well the certain logic that prevails in public affairs. We believe that irony is a kind of medicine."

The game works on similar principles to Monopoly. Players throw dice and move around squares representing landmarks of the Milan political and business world.

Some 60 politicians and businessmen have been arrested in the scandal that erupted in Milan in February, denting the image of the Socialist party of the prime minister, Giuliano Amato.



Amato: scandal dented image of his party

A LUCINDA GANDERTON DESIGN FOR EHRMAN TAPESTRY



The duck and drake in this delightful tapestry by Lucinda Ganderton are a rich mixture of dark and pale greens, oatmeal, lilac, pale blue, cream, peach, biscuit, strawberry red and a deep mahogany brown. Surrounded by lilies and reeds they are set on a cream background and the whole design is framed in a decorative chevron border reminiscent of feathers.

Measuring 18 1/2" x 14 1/2" the design is printed in full colour on 10 holes to the inch canvas. It is suitable either as a large cushion or as a picture. Worked in half-cross or tent stitch enough wool from the Rowan range is provided to complete the tapestry in either. The kit comes complete with canvas, wool, needle and instruction leaflet. All for £28.50 incl. post & packing. When ordering use FREEPOST - no stamp required.

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Appeal court condemns 'disaster' of £40m Blue Arrow trial



McKinnon: acted too late during the trial

THE marathon Blue Arrow fraud trial, which ran up legal bills of £40 million, was a "costly disaster" that must never be repeated, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Lord Justice Mann said the year-long Old Bailey trial — the second longest criminal case in English legal history — had been an ordeal for the jury and in itself a daily "punishment" for the accused. The Court of Appeal, which last week quashed convictions of four city advisers in the Blue Arrow case, laid the blame at the doors of the prosecution and of the trial judge, Mr Justice McKinnon.

The trial's length and complexity was directly attributable to the length and complexity of the indictment faced by the accused, Lord Justice Mann said. The prosecution had a heavy responsibility not to overload indictments. The

The judge and the prosecution were at fault in the second longest criminal case in English legal history, the Court of Appeal has ruled. Frances Gibb writes

trial judge, Mr Justice McKinnon, did reduce the size of the case, but at a very late stage after prosecution and defence counsel had addressed the jury. He should have split the case much earlier into issues that could have been tried separately.

Lord Justice Mann, sitting with Mr Justice Ognall and Mr Justice Buckley, said: "We think in this case, and with respect to him, the judge should much earlier have used his power of severance to achieve then what he sought too late to do."

A robust and early use of the power of severance did have

disadvantages — a second Blue Arrow trial was still pending. But it was the only power available to limit issues to secure a manageable and fair trial. "Judges must not be reluctant to exercise their power in order to secure that end, but — and importantly — they will seldom have occasion to do so if, when performing their difficult task, the prosecuting authorities frame indictments which have due regard to the limitations of a jury trial."

George Staple, the director of the Serious Fraud Office, who was in court, said one of the lessons of the judgment was that preparatory hear-

ings, a key part of the fraud trial procedure where the issues are defined, had not been effectively used. "As the Court of Appeal said, ultimately it is the judge's decision to the extent that should happen."

"We have specialist judges for building disputes, admiralty work, divorce. I do think that in these very complex cases a panel of specialist judges is a good idea," he said. As for the Serious Fraud Office, he said in future the aim would be to ensure indictments were not overloaded, adding that in the past two years only three indictments considered by a jury had contained more than 12 counts.

The clearing of the four and the earlier acquittal of other defendants mean that no one now stands convicted as a result of the trial. The judges had cleared Jonathan Cohen, 48, David Reed, 44, and

Nicholas Wells, 37, all senior executives of County NatWest, the merchant banking arm of the National Westminster Bank, and set aside their 18-month suspended prison sentences.

Martin Gibbs, 62, a stockbroker, and a former director of UBS Phillips and Drew, also had his conviction and 12-month suspended sentence quashed. Three other accused and three corporate defendants were acquitted during the trial. They had been convicted this February of conspiring to mislead the markets over the result of the 1987 £837 million Blue Arrow rights issue — which was launched to finance the company's takeover of the larger American employment agency Manpower — by secretly buying shares themselves to raise the take-up level announced to other investors.

The trial judge decided, a month before the jury retired, to restrict the case to the "late take-up" issue and tell the jurors to ignore 75 per cent of the evidence. It was that decision that led the appeal judges to intervene. Lord Justice Mann said the decision to sum up only in regard to late take-up constituted a "material irregularity" in the course of the trial.

Lord Justice Mann said the chronology of the case, which followed a 1989 Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into the rights issue, would cause "dismay" in anyone who considered it. The jury eventually retired with 956 pages of exhibits and with such recollection as they had of the evidence of over 90 prosecution witnesses they had heard between seven and eleven months earlier.

Jeffrey Bayes, the Law Soci-

ety's spokesman on fraud, called for more discipline over prosecutors. "I think that every trial judge at the beginning of a case should say to the prosecutor: 'Pick your best half-dozen charges and if you can't make one of those stick, then don't trouble the court.'"

The Maxwell and BCCI trials were due to last six to twelve months, and it was unfair to expect jurors to concentrate on difficult issues for so long, he said. But trials by judge and jury were still the best method of dealing with fraud cases.

The Government is currently looking at long trials and there are expected to be proposals later this year. A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's department said Lord Mackay had been discussing long trials with judges who had presided over such hearings and with the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor.

Terre Blanche 'hit with riding crop'

BY BILL FROST

EUGENE Terre Blanche, the South African neo-Nazi leader, was attacked with a riding crop by his alleged lover, Jani Allan, after he had reneged on a promise to leave his wife and marry her, a High Court libel jury was told yesterday.

Marlene Burger, news editor of the *Sunday Times* of South Africa, told how Miss Allan's attitude towards Mr Terre Blanche, leader of the extreme right-wing AWB party, changed dramatically after his decision to stay with his family. "She became extremely critical and increasingly vitriolic about him," she said.

Mrs Burger said that Miss Allan had told her of an occasion when Mr Terre Blanche, his wife and daughter arrived at her flat. Mr Terre Blanche was "intoxicated" and the visit ended unpleasantly with Miss Allan

attacking him with a riding crop.

The jury had earlier heard about the night on which Mr Terre Blanche had proposed marriage to Miss Allan when he telephoned Mrs Burger's flat, where the two women were staying.

Mrs Burger, who at that time was working with Miss Allan on the *Sunday Times*, said: "I left the room to give them privacy. Then Miss Allan came through to the kitchen, threw her arms around me and hugged me. She was in a very happy mood. She said Terre Blanche had indicated he was no longer going to stay with his wife. She said marriage had been discussed."

Mr Terre Blanche called again and afterwards Miss Allan told Mrs Burger that he had warned her to revise her "economic objectives" after

the marriage. "She laughingly told me that he said there was no electricity on his farm so she wouldn't be able to use her hairdrier every day, and there would be no money for the perfume she liked to wear," said Mrs Burger.

Miss Allan, 41, of Hampton Court, Surrey, is suing Channel 4 over the film *The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife*. She says the programme portrayed her as a "lady of easy virtue" who had slept with the South African neo-Nazi leader Eugene Terre Blanche. Channel 4 says the film-makers never suggested an affair and argues that such an allegation, although never made, would have been justified.

The High Court heard yesterday how in the days following the phone calls from Mr Terre Blanche to Miss Allan it became clear he was still living with his wife. If he had left, it was only for a brief period of about 48 hours.

Miss Allan was admitted to a clinic suffering from a bleeding ulcer. Mrs Burger told the jury that Mr Terre Blanche had telephoned her flat looking for Miss Allan after her admission. "He wanted to know where she was and how she was. I lost my temper and told him it was his fault she was in the clinic," she said. Mrs Burger told the court she had warned Mr Terre Blanche that her newspaper would seek a restraining order against him if he persisted in bothering Miss Allan.

Charles Gray, QC, for Miss Allan, pointed out to Mrs Burger that she had no proof of a sexual relationship between his client and Mr Terre Blanche. Mrs Burger replied: "That is correct. But I never had a denial either."

Cornelius Smit, a former chief secretary of the AWB, told the court how he had found Mr Terre Blanche "very drunk" and semi-dressed in a Pretoria flat with Miss Allan. Mr Terre Blanche had been asleep and snoring when he arrived after taking a phone call from Miss Allan in the small hours.

"He was holding a wine glass on his chest. He had a khaki jacket over his shoulders. Apart from that he was naked but for green underpants with holes in them. His clothes were on the floor," Mr Smit told the court. Mr Terre Blanche had also attempted to put on a pair of women's slacks which Mr Smit said appeared to belong to Miss Allan.

Mr Smit said Miss Allan wanted Mr Terre Blanche out of the flat before someone else arrived. "I decided to take him to my place to sleep it off," he added.

The trial continues.



A BT rigger fits a circuit board essential to modern telephone exchanges. Yesterday London became the first European city to have a fully digital system

Police warn 2,000 travellers to leave farm or risk arrest

BY PETER VICTOR

MORE than 2,000 new age travellers have been ordered to leave private farmland in mid-Wales or risk being arrested and fined or jailed. Tomorrow is "dole and diesel day", when the travellers are expected to collect their benefits and fuel their vehicles in preparation for moving.

Police yesterday issued an order under section 39 of the Public Order Act to remove the travellers from a hilltop farm at Kerry, Powys. The hippies, who have been on the farm since last Thursday, are the rumour of a weekend festival which, at its height, attracted more than 10,000 people to the six-acre site.

The order, telling them to leave the land "as soon as is reasonably practical", was formally served at the site yesterday at lunchtime. Within five minutes it had been

torn down and handed back to police in a rubbish bin bag.

The police said: "It makes no difference. As far as we are concerned the notice has been properly served. The hippies must now leave within a reasonable time or they can be removed forcibly."

News of the order was also announced by loudspeakers from the Dyfed-Powys police helicopter.

Those who defy the order will be liable to arrest for offences which carry a maximum penalty of three months in jail and fines of up to £1,000. They could also be prosecuted if they try to return to the site.

Police were unable to issue an order under the Public Order Act until the farmer, Stanley Pugh, had asked the travellers to leave his land via a civil order. Police lawyers

also had to establish that there was sufficient evidence of trespass, damage and threatening behaviour. Mr Pugh, 60, has lost about 20 sheep, killed and mutilated by stray dogs from the camp. Fence posts were ripped out of the ground for firewood.

Many hippies at the illegal camp said they intended to ignore the notice until Thursday when they collect benefit money in nearby Newtown to buy food and fuel. Benefit workers yesterday handed out forms with a view to processing claims for payment tomorrow.

A total of 111 people have been arrested, mainly for drug dealing and possession. Defective vehicles have also been stopped and owners reported for motoring offences.

Leading article, page 13

Alan Bond art sale raises £2m

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

THE sale of the art collection of Alan Bond, the disgraced Australian tycoon, yesterday raised £2.2 million for receivers of his family company, Dalhold Investments.

Christie's, who held the Melbourne sale, said it was pleased with the result, though the money will scarcely dent Dalhold's overall debts, estimated at A\$1 billion (£392 million) when it collapsed last July. Bond, who broke saleroom records when he paid £30.2 million for Van Gogh's *Irises* in 1987, is serving a two-and-a-half year sentence in Wooroloo prison near Perth for corporate dishonesty, having failed to pay back a A\$194 million personal guarantee to a syndicate of banks.

The auction went extremely well. There were orders for four Australian landscape artists including a Eugene von Guérard at £277,000 and a Sir George Russell Drysdale which sold for £256,410.

According to Roger McIlroy, managing director of Christie's in Australia, the result was a tribute to the discernment of Angela Neville, the London agent, who had been given free rein to buy on Bond's behalf during the 1970s and 1980s.

The Australian press latched on to claims that 11 watercolours by John William Lewin, worth A\$50,000 in total, were not actually by him. Although the same paintings had been sold by Sotheby's previously catalogued as Lewins, Christie's took the precaution of withdrawing them.

Bond had planned to build a historical collection dating from the Cook voyage up to the present day. At its height, the collection contained about 100 paintings valued at £39 million. Bond later sold the *Irises* to the Getty museum for what was believed to have been a knock-down price. The whereabouts of much of his collection is unknown. An estimated 15 works including John Webber's famous portrait of Captain Cook disappeared in January 1991, presumed to have been sold to a dealer. Some paintings are held by members of the family who claim ownership. One of the most valuable paintings, Rupert Bunny's *Une Nuit de Canicule*, was destroyed by fire in London in 1991.

New road surface cuts noise

BY MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

AN ABSORBENT road surface material capable of reducing traffic noise and water spray from heavy lorries is to be introduced on motorways and trunk roads. Kenneth Carlisle, the roads minister, said yesterday.

The sponge-like asphalt helps to reduce noise emissions from traffic by half and allows water to filter through the road metal instead of draining off to either side of the road, Mr Carlisle said. Other benefits include reduced glare from the road surface, reduced risk of aquaplaning and improved driver comfort.

The decision to introduce porous asphalt, which is used widely on airport runways and roads in some continental countries, follows extensive trials on the A38 Burton bypass. Some of the surface's drawbacks include reduced strength, reduced durability, greater reliance on scarce high-performance aggregates, increased maintenance requirements and greater cost. Consequently, the surface will be used only in the more noise-sensitive areas.

Bill Thomson, the RAC's highways manager, welcomed the announcement, said: "Porous asphalt is used extensively in Austria, Holland and France. The reduction in noise is equivalent to either halving the volume of traffic or doubling the distance of the observer from the road."

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David Maclean, the environment minister, aims to meet these fears by narrowing the registers down, in the first

Depressed property industry fears land blight

A two-tier register of contaminated land is to be drawn up by local authorities, Michael McCarthy writes

instance, to contain fewer than 20 per cent of the sites that would originally have been included in comprehensive lists of any areas that may have been contaminated in any way.

Initially, only land which is seriously contaminated by heavy industrial processes, and requires remedial action, will be targeted, according to a small number of use criteria, including production of asbestos, coke and gas, lead and steel, and oil refining. Thousands of lesser cases, such as the sites of scrapyards, farm buildings, dunghoops or wood work-

shops will not be included. In a consultation document which will be published in the next few days, the government will propose that the registers should consist of two tiers, of land which may have been contaminated, and land which has been subject to cleaning operations. Sites will be able to pass from the first list to the second, giving them something half-way to a clean bill of health.

However, no piece of land, once on the registers, will be able to come off completely, and the scheme may still provoke an outcry from the property industry, as it is not only

the value of derelict land that may be affected: many developments, including housing, have been put up on formerly contaminated sites, including the environment department's own headquarters in Marsham Street in London, built on the site of an old gas works.

There are thought to be between 75,000 and 100,000 contaminated sites in Britain with an estimated clean-up bill of up to £30 billion. Last month, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors claimed that the values of hundreds of thousands of homes would be affected and asked Mr Maclean to scrap the registers in favour of a limited scheme that would require land to be examined for contamination only if it was to be developed. The gov-

ernment cannot abandon the plan.

Not only would scrapping the scheme be seen as a betrayal by the environmental movement: it is bound to introduce the registers under section 143 of the 1990 Environment Protection Act. One senior government source commented: "We cannot just ignore the reality of an old leadworks."

The consultation is likely to last several months and it will be next spring at the earliest before completion of the registers can be started. The City of London Corporation, which owns Burnham Beeches, 540 acres of ancient woodland in south Buckinghamshire, was yesterday presented with a new woodland conservation award for its work there.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Extra battalions to stay in Ulster

Northern Ireland ministers have won cabinet approval for retaining two extra battalions in the province in spite of the defence ministry's warning that some regiments might have to be retrained to meet the heavy commitment (Sheila Gunn writes).

The hard-fought battle to maintain the present strength at 12 battalions, tying up 20,000 service personnel in Northern Ireland, came this year after the ministers persuaded John Major that any reduction would send the wrong signals to all parties involved in talks on the political future of the province. In particular, a cutback to ten battalions, as originally envisaged by Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, either now or in the autumn when the talks are scheduled to resume, could disillusion the Unionist community about the government's commitment to counter-terrorist measures and border security.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, persuaded colleagues on the new seven-strong Northern Ireland cabinet committee, chaired by the prime minister, to maintain the present strength. The 3rd battalion The Parachute Regiment and the 1st battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were sent to Northern Ireland in December and March. However, the Cabinet committee is understood to have been warned by Mr Rifkind of the knock-on effect for the three-year *Options for Change* review, which plans to reduce army personnel by 40,000. A continued service force of 12 battalions in the province would involve almost 20 per cent of the entire British army at its planned 1995 level.

The defence secretary has repeatedly made clear that any further big commitments could overstretch an army cut down to 104,000 trained personnel.

Council investigated

The government is to hold an enquiry into planning procedures in north Cornwall after allegations that the local council has allowed the destruction of areas of natural beauty. The decision to investigate follows the council's rejection of an environment department request to set up its own enquiry. The department said concern was aroused by criticism of North Cornwall District Council's conduct by the local government ombudsman and in a Channel 4 documentary. The programme, in December, dealt with allegations that councillors based decisions on the "personal need" of applicants rather than on planning policies.

Colliery restart fails

An attempt by redundant miners to reopen Thurncroft Colliery, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire has failed. British Coal announced that it was going ahead with plans to seal off the pit after Thurncroft Colliery 1992 failed to pay care and maintenance costs. The company, made up of redundant miners, had hoped to restart operations by leasing the mine from British Coal. Thurncroft planned to create 200 jobs at the pit, which was heading for a £15 million loss when it last operated. The company was only able to pay care and maintenance costs for three weeks. It denied it had failed to honour its agreement.

Dublin talks adjourn

The talks on the future of Northern Ireland broke up yesterday for a summer break after the first meeting of the strand 3 negotiations held in Dublin. Three months of meetings have now established all three phases of the process. In early September, when talks resume, the readiness of all the participants to compromise on opening positions, notably the Irish constitutional claim to Northern Ireland, will be put to the test. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, said yesterday he was very hopeful. "The great thing is that the process of talks which we resumed on April 29 is now continuing on the July 28."

Injunction for Jackson

Michael Jackson flies to Britain today with victory in the first round of his battle to prove that his face has not been disfigured by plastic surgery. The pop star, whose Dangerous tour starts in England tomorrow, won a High Court injunction yesterday banning the *Daily Mirror* from republishing or circulating a close-up photograph of him taken at the opening concert of his European tour in Munich last month. The singer has already launched a libel action against the paper for using the picture to suggest that his face has been "hideously disfigured" by plastic surgery.

Butterflies invade

East Anglia is being invaded by hundreds of thousands of European butterflies, and one species, the Large White, is threatening to devour the region's cabbage crops. Earlier this month swarms of Large Whites crossed the North Sea and arrived on the Suffolk coast, followed by tens of thousands of other butterflies. John Minihane, a Southwold nature reserve warden, said: "They have been coming across in countless numbers. It's a wonderful sight, and a riot of colour." But he adds: "We woe beetle gardeners and allotment holders... Come the autumn, there won't be many cabbages left standing."

Union ban attacked

Three thousand civilian security men who are to be formed into a single organisation to guard Ministry of Defence establishments will be banned from being represented by unions with political affiliations. The decision was denounced by two unions yesterday in spite of a compromise proposal by the defence ministry. The ministry suggested that the security guards could remain with their industrial unions but only as a special non-affiliated section. The TCGU and the GMB general union accused the government of political interference and called for Parliament to debate the issue.

University backs old remedies

EXETER University claimed a European first yesterday as it announced the establishment of a chair in complementary medicine, which combines original research with tuition in medical traditions around the world (Alison Roberts writes).

The seniority of the post adds credibility to the increasingly popular field of alternative medicine. David Harrison, the Exeter vice-chancellor, called it a sea change in medical education and a breakthrough in relations between orthodox and complementary medicine.

A recent survey showed that 37 per cent of GPs already prescribe homeopathic treatment, with more women doctors using it than men. A high number of GPs said that they wanted homeopathy to be included in medical tuition.

The Exeter chair will be established at the university's Centre for Complementary Health Studies, set up five years ago. The Exeter centre believes that its clinical trials lead the way in Europe.

Stubbing out brings quick benefit

Heart risk fades days after smoking stops

BY ALISON ROBERTS

STOPPING smoking produces tangible benefits to health within 48 hours, doctors will be told at a meeting of cardiology specialists in London today.

New research shows that the higher risk of blood clotting in smokers returns to normal levels within a matter of days, rather than ten years, as was previously thought. Studies carried out at St Mary's Hospital, London, showed that heavy smokers who gave up their 20-45 cigarette a day habit regained non-smokers' levels of blood viscosity within a few days. The findings indicate that the higher risk of thrombosis in smokers may reverse rapidly on giving up.

Levels of fibrinogen, a blood clotting agent, are higher in smokers. The dramatic fall in fibrinogen levels in those who stop might also slightly lessen the risk of lung cancer and artery disease, although susceptibility to these diseases remains higher in

the ex-smoker for much longer.

Professor Peter Sever, director of the hypertension clinic at St Mary's, said that lower levels of fibrinogen may indicate lessened risk of other diseases. The research should encourage smokers to give up in the knowledge that their health would benefit almost immediately, he said.

"Up to now, people thought it took ten years for an ex-smoker's risk to return to that of a non-smoker," he said. "But decreases in viscosity and fibrinogen all decrease the tendency for the blood to clot, and at the end of the day it is the clot that kills."

Smokers are twice as likely to die from coronary heart disease as non-smokers, but doctors emphasised that this could rise to a risk of five times if smoking was combined with factors such as obesity and lack of exercise. Professor Sever said: "It is vital that patients get a complete package which modifies

their collective risk if doctors are to meet the targets set in the government's latest white paper on health."

Doctors at the cardiology conference will also confirm that a reduction in cholesterol reduces the risk of coronary heart disease. The benefits of reducing dietary cholesterol has been the subject of much debate. A recent study at St Thomas' Hospital, London, showed that lowering cholesterol could slow, halt and even reverse heart disease.

Dr John Benteridge, consultant physician at University College Hospital, London, said that diet alone could reduce the risk of fatty deposits narrowing arteries, but that diet and treatment with the drug cholestyramine showed a much greater improvement.

Britain has the highest incidence of heart disease in the world and the conference has been called in an attempt to tackle the inadequacy of treating risk factors in isolation.



Plenty of horns: Sayuri Iijima, left, and Shuiko Okamoto, of the Soichiro Ohno Horn Octet, based in Germany, rehearsing yesterday for the 24th International Horn Society Workshop, being held in Britain at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. The gathering, which ends tomorrow, involves the world's greatest exponents of the instrument.

Horn-players, horn-makers and composers have been enjoying recitals, full orchestral performances, a masterclass with Barry Tuckwell and much impromptu tooting.

£17,000 award for injuries in womb

BY KERRY GILL

A FORMER Royal Scots corporal and his wife, who sued the defence ministry over the death of their brain-damaged baby son, were awarded substantial damages yesterday after a judge disagreed with an earlier decision by the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court, and declared that a baby in the womb was a "person" in law.

Lord Morton of Shuna upheld the couple's claim that army medical staff in West Germany had been negligent at the time the baby was born and awarded them £17,000. Allister McWilliams, 30, and his wife Marion, 28, were stationed in West Germany where the baby was born two months prematurely by caesarian section in the British Military Hospital, Munster, in June 1987.

The baby was christened Martin shortly before his death five weeks later. The McWilliams family, formerly of Midlothian, who now live in Camberley, Surrey, sued for £25,000 damages at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

In his judgment Lord Morton said he disagreed with fellow judge Lord Prosser, who had ruled in an identical case that a baby in the womb was not a "person" in law. Lord Prosser rejected damages claims by parents who had sued Fife health board for negligence when their son

died three days after a forceps delivery. Lord Prosser said at the time that the baby was injured it was a "foetus" and not a "person" in law.

However, Lord Morton ruled that a child who was born alive and survived had the right to sue for injuries sustained in the womb. The parents were awarded the money for loss of society of their baby. The judge rejected the defence ministry's claim that the parents had no right to sue because the baby was not a "person".

Lord Morton accepted the evidence of two army doctors who were of the opinion that if a senior obstetrician, Colonel Brown, had been called in an hour and a half earlier it would have made a material difference to the child's chance of survival. The delay caused by the negligence materially contributed to the baby's death. The cause of death was the lack of oxygen in the hours before his birth and in the minutes after his birth.

The legal argument arose from the wording of the 1976 Damages (Scotland) Act which spoke about relatives suing after a "person" died from injuries caused by negligence. The defence ministry had argued that before birth an unborn child was not a person and that the child in this case had been injured when he was not a person.



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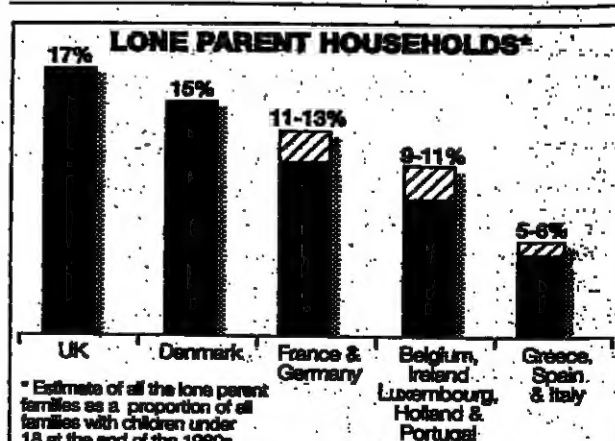
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UK tops Euro table of single mothers

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THERE are more lone-parent families in the UK than any other country in Europe, according to an EC commissioned report that puts the United Kingdom at the top of the league table for the first time.

Single parents, defined as neither married, nor cohabiting, now head almost one in five UK families with children under 18, compared with one in seven Danish families and one in eight in Germany and France. Much lower proportions are found in Italy, Spain and Greece, where the number is little more than one in 20.

There are about 1.3 million parents living alone with 2.1 million children in the UK, the European Family and Social Policy Unit report says. About nine out of ten are single mothers. Previous reports have shown that the growth in lone-parent families has largely been due to divorce and separation. However, the UK has recently seen a large rise in the number of

mothers who do not marry at all, while figures in other countries have remained relatively static.

Malcolm Wicks, Labour MP for Croydon and director of the London-based Family Policy Studies Centre, said that seven out of ten one-parent families were on state benefits. "This means that too many of our children are experiencing deprived childhoods, and this does not augur well for their status as tomorrow's Europeans."

The UK was following the trend in America, where half of all marriages end in divorce, he said. "Young people are having sexual experiences at a very early age and although they are thought of as the know-it-all generation, in fact they are often amazingly innocent."

Jo Ryle, author of the report, said that the UK was one of the few countries where lone mothers were less likely to be employed, either full or part-time, than mothers in general.

Planners clear Shropshire's fly-in village for take-off

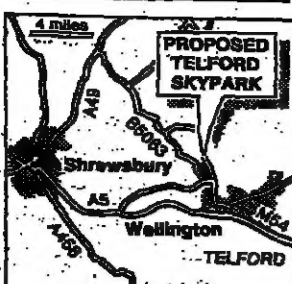
PROPOSALS for the country's first fly-in village of houses built with parking space for a light aircraft, on the edge of Telford in Shropshire, are likely to receive planning permission today in spite of local objections.

Planners from Wrekin District Council have recommended that the Labour-controlled council should vote in favour of granting planning permission for the estate of 65 executive homes on a 130-acre site on the outskirts of the new town, on a former wartime airfield. Each of the £250,000 mock-Tudor houses will have an adjacent hangar, a large room with space for a light aircraft.

The typical businessman that Skypark, the developer, is aiming at would use an aircraft two or three times a week to commute to work and meetings in the business capitals of Europe.

Stepping from the family breakfast table into the cockpit, he would start up the propeller, and roll along a network of tarmac leading from each house to the runway along the southern edge of the estate. Purchasers will have to prove that they are serious about flying and own an aircraft, as the developers

The prerequisite for a place on a new estate will be a private pilot's licence, writes Rachel Kelly



are anxious that the estate should not be seen just as another executive housing development where, within a few years, owners use their hangars for garages.

The appeal to aviators is that they will save about £5,000 a year in landing fees and hangar space at an airport. Steve Williams, a director of Skypark, said: "That is 50 per cent of the running cost of an aircraft. Take away the majority of those costs and aircraft are more affordable than a BMW or a Jaguar."

Though the idea of residents flying home seems futuristic, the number of privately owned aircraft in Britain has been steadily increasing since 1982, when there were about 3,000. Now there are 7,000 such aircraft registered by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The numbers of helicopters registered has also increased, from 300 in 1982 to nearly 1,000 today, although helicopters do not need runways and could land on a lawn.

The reality also already exists in America, which has about a hundred flying communities. Residents share taxiways and runways and each house has a personal hangar. One committed air commuter is Jay Thompson, a property developer who uses his light aircraft about twice a week to fly to and from his home at Spruce Creek, near Daytona Beach in Florida, which was in part a model for the Telford project.

"It's quick and easy, and obviously the size of America means that it makes sense for businessmen flying to business meetings," he said.

At the upmarket sunbelt housing estate of Spruce Creek, there are 1,000 homes, 450 of which have



Aerial view: an artist's impression of the planned Skypark estate, where residents will have private hangars

hangars attached. There is an airport with a hard surface runway and a country club for residents with golf, tennis and exercise facilities. About half the residents are second home owners who come to the estate at weekends to enjoy Florida's sun, beach and sporting life.

"Obviously, it's easier to fly

in America than the UK because the weather in Florida is better so it's easy to take-off," Mr Thompson said. There is also a fun element to flying in America, he says. "People just enjoy flying. It's better than sitting in traffic."

Spruce Creek's planes make no more noise than a

car, Mr Thompson says, one of the fears of Telford residents living near the planned development. Wrekin council has received 88 individual letters of objection and 645 standard letters of objection from residents of Shawbush, a middle-class area of about 1,500 people whose nearest border is

about 350 yards from the proposed site.

Campaigners are protesting both on grounds of noise and safety. Some are concerned about the value of their homes. Janet Booth, a planner from the council, says that noise levels would be closely controlled by the council. No more than

25,000 landings and take-offs would be allowed a year, which means that roughly half of the residents could use their planes every day.

The advantage for locals is that Telford would gain its own airport (Birmingham is at least a 70-minute drive) and the developers have promised to build a wooded recreation area to act as a buffer between the new estate and existing houses.

Philip Davis, chairman of the council's planning and environmental services committee, is in favour of the development, and says he feels that residents' fears that their house prices will fall are unfounded. "The evidence of other developments near an air facility is that prices go up," he says.

The nuisance from noise would be mitigated because aircraft would not be allowed to fly over Shawbush. The development would be self-policing as people on the new estate would be closest and most sensitive to noise. The council employed independent Milton Keynes consultants to look at noise and safety, and found that the development would not have a big impact, Mr Davis said.

Homes, L&T section, page 7

Stevens acclaims postwar buildings

By JOHN YOUNG

MANY of Britain's finest postwar buildings could be lost because of public indifference and dislike of modern architecture, Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said yesterday.

Barely 30 years ago, much Victorian architecture was derided as fussy, pretentious, over-ornate, heavy or plain ugly, Mr Stevens said. However, today we would certainly not allow the Euston Arch or the Coal Exchange to be destroyed, as they had been in the 1950s.

"It is time to apply a balanced approach to modern architecture, and especially postwar architecture: the schools, housing estates and town halls built 30 or 40 years ago, and which are already history," Mr Stevens said. "Many of these buildings are excellent, but have been condemned, often thoughtlessly, and lumped together with the worst and most unpopular examples of the modern movement."

Mr Stevens was speaking at the launch of an exhibition, *A Change of Heart*, at the

Royal College of Art, in Kensington, west London, which consists of 33 panels of photographs and text and an audio-visual display, and examines developments within postwar architecture.

Many architects had not fully understood the new materials and techniques that they were using, but had still produced some very good buildings, Mr Stevens said.

"Among the shoddy jobs, the cheap concrete and the Roman Point tower blocks are some outstanding examples of bold, clean, modern architecture," Mr Stevens said. "It is time we abandoned the blinkered, entrenched partisanship over postwar architecture, the knee-jerk reactions by traditionalists, or by dogmatic modernists. If we do not, the best of our postwar buildings could disappear, just as the Firestone factory disappeared in 1982."

The exhibition is open daily, including weekends, from 10am to 8pm until August 21, and will later go on tour to Chelmsford, Birmingham, Bradford and Exeter.



Postwar pile: Trellick Tower, west London, a 1968 building once voted one of Britain's most hated

Royal parks reform dooms eyesores

By JOHN YOUNG

MANAGEMENT of royal parks in London at present a government responsibility, is to be devolved to a new executive agency early next year, it was announced yesterday.

Part of the agency's income is expected to come from car parking charges, which are to be introduced to discourage all-day parking by commuters and to make spaces available for park visitors. Robert Key, the national heritage minister, estimated that charges could produce up to £750,000 a year, which, if the Treasury approves, would go towards maintaining and enhancing the amenities and appearance of the parks.

Landscape architects and designers will be appointed to restore the parks to the highest standards and to remove eyesores, and traffic engineers are to be consulted on how to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

The policing of Hyde Park will be handed over by the Metropolitan Police to the

Royal Parks Constabulary, and emergency telephones will be installed to improve security and visitors' safety.

The plans broadly follow recommendations for Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens by a review group headed by Dame Jennifer Jenkins, former National Trust chairman, but the government has rejected a proposal that dogs be kept on leads in Kensington Gardens.

Mr Key refused to say whether the latest controls on public spending would let the government implement radical traffic measures such as closing North Carriage Drive and Horseguards Road, and building a cut-and-cover tunnel for West Carriage Drive. He ruled out the prospect of the parks raising money by staging more events, saying: "I am not going to permit money-making activities to spoil the parks for ordinary users."

The review group has been asked to examine the three other royal parks in inner London, Regent's, St James's and Green Park.

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Patten extends schools reforms into 21st century

IT IS the intention of this white paper and the legislation which will follow to complete the process of change begun in the 1980s by introducing a new and evolutionary framework for the organisation of our schools.

Funding Agency: The government proposes to establish a new statutory body, to be known as the funding agency for schools. It will have 10-15 members appointed by the education secretary, drawn from various backgrounds to reflect a broad mix of educational and other experience. The funding agency will acquire functions as and when the number of grant maintained (GM) schools increases and the education secretary so determines. Initially, the agency will be responsible for the payment of grant and financial monitoring of GM schools, which is now done by the department.

In addition, as the number of GM schools expands in any area, the funding agency will have increasing responsibilities for the rationalisation of places in GM schools and for securing sufficient places. It will be able, subject to the approval of the education secretary, to set up regional offices as the number of GM schools grows, to carry out its closely prescribed duties.

Parents will continue to have the right to complain to the education secretary where they consider that a governing body is failing in its obligations.

The government proposes to take a power to enable the education secretary in certain circumstances, to replace some or all first governors, who must form a majority on the governing bodies of ex-county GM schools.

The government proposes that, where more than 10 per cent of primary or secondary school pupils in an LEA are educated in GM schools, the LEA will be relieved of its responsibility for securing sufficient places for the relevant age group.

Truancy: There is too much truancy from our schools. We are no longer prepared to allow schools to turn a blind eye, and have therefore placed them under new legal requirements.

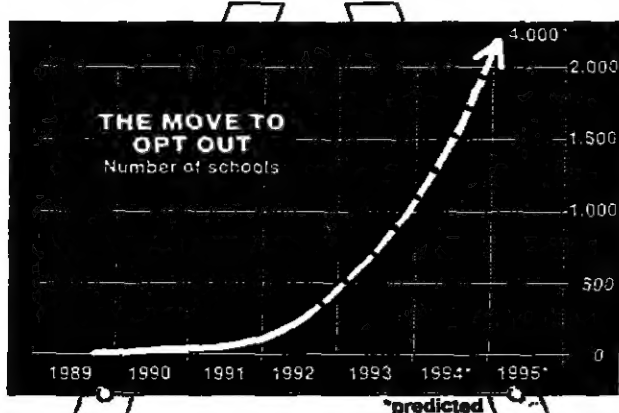
More needs to be done in teacher training courses to prepare young teachers for ensuring commitment on the part of their pupils and revisions and improvements to the national curriculum need to keep good citizenship under close review.

League tables of truancy amongst schools will expose the problem and give further stimulus to the activities of education welfare officers. LEAs should use their legal powers to bring before the courts parents who have failed to ensure that their children go to school.

A moral dimension: Whatever the individual religious feelings of boys and girls, the ethos of any school should include a vision of the values within it, and those of the community outside.

Strong leadership: Strong leadership of teachers and pupils usually means articulating a clear academic mission for the school, setting standards and creating a recognisable ethos. Better management contributes to better education. It is not just about book-keeping, though financial disciplines are im-

Opting out: The classroom revolution goes on. The government claims that its plans for schools will mean greater parental choice and a better deal for pupils



portant. It is rather about the better use of resources.

School inspection: The new schools' inspectorate's immediate task is to complete for the first time ever a Domesday Book-like survey of the quality and achievements of all England's schools, and to do so within four years.

Curriculum and testing: The government is committed to the national curriculum, which is central to the life of schools, and absolutely committed to testing. The work of the National Curriculum Council and the School Examinations and Assessment Council is closely related and the time has come to bring that work closer together. This white paper proposes to set up a completely new body, the school curriculum and assessment authority.

Specialisation and selection: For a non-selective school to become selective — or vice versa — requires the approval of the secretary of state. We will continue the practice of treating each application on its merits and will consider all applications in the context of the educational needs and provision of the area in which they are made.

Meeting all pupils' needs: We are bringing forward proposals to improve access to the present arrangements for assessments and statements; to give parents the right to express a preference for their child's school; to provide clear and sensible avenues of appeal for parents who are not

satisfied with the decisions made about their child; and to set up an independent tribunal to deal with appeals.

Bright children: The government firmly believes that education within the maintained sector should provide for children of all abilities, including the most able. Children with exceptional ability should be advanced within the higher groups for all or part of the curriculum.

Greater efficiency: Too much money is being spent in England on maintaining surplus school places. Removing surplus places is one means of achieving the more efficient use of resources. The most effective — and the most extensive — means of achieving efficiency is through giving greater powers to governing bodies.

We are committed to ensuring that parents are not denied the opportunity to seek GM status for their school.

The government believes that the number of GM schools will increase substantially during the lifetime of this parliament. This increase necessitates the creation of a new funding and organisational framework for GM schools.

The transition: Present arrangements require two resolutions of a governing body before the school may proceed to a parental ballot. The second resolution causes available delay and can be burdensome. The government intends to eliminate the second resolution.

The government intends to

enable the secretary of state to pay a governing body sums in respect of expenses incurred in promoting the acquisition of GM status.

Small schools: The government proposes to legislate to enable groups of small primary schools to apply together for GM status, and, once approved, to be managed jointly by a single governing body. The arrangements will allow the group or cluster of schools to share many costs. Each prospective cluster school will be required to ballot its parents separately on cluster GM status.

Where only some of the schools voted in favour, those schools would be able to put forward proposals but would not be required to do so. The secretary of state will have the power to approve, modify or reject the application for cluster status.

Parents will apply to individual schools within the cluster for admission, not to the cluster itself, and the governing body will be under a duty to ensure that the majority of funds follow the pupil.

Funding: The government proposes that the secretary of state will have discretion to introduce, LEA by LEA, a common funding formula (CFF) for GM schools when there are sufficient primary or secondary schools to justify it. The formula will distribute between GM schools in an LEA area a total based on the relevant share of the government's standard spending assessment (SSA) for the LEA concerned. There will be a balancing adjustment in individual local authorities' funding as necessary.

The great majority of CFF funds will be distributed by reference to pupil numbers, but the formula will also take account of other objective differences between schools.

GM schools receive specific grants for a variety of purposes and capital grants. The expectation is that, as schools gain more experience of local management of schools, they will need less financial help in the transition to GM status.

Wales: The secretary of state for Wales assumed earlier this year responsibility for training. The secretary of state proposes to establish some 23 unitary authorities whose responsibilities would include education. The smaller school population of the proposed new authorities, together with an expected increase in the number of GM schools and increased levels of delegation to schools through the local management of schools initiative, will mean that LEAs in Wales will need increasingly to take on an enabling role and work in collaboration with each other and the GM schools sector, as well as further and higher education bodies.

The government proposes to extend the functions of the curriculum council for Wales to include responsibility for assessment and examination of Welsh first and second languages at key stages 1-4 and beyond, plus assessment at key stages 1-3 for all other subjects in Wales.

The government proposes new arrangements for funding GM schools in Wales and to rationalise the responsibilities of the GM and LEA maintained sectors to provide sufficient school places.

Opt-out expansion, page 1
Brian Appleyard, page 12
Leading article, page 13



Aiming high: the government wants to ensure quality and coherence in the national curriculum

New authority to ensure quality of courses and assessment systems

CURRICULUM

A new supervisory body and increased opportunities for pupils to specialise in their best subjects are proposed

THE government now proposes to raise standards by creating the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, with responsibility in England for ensuring quality in the curriculum and associated assessment arrangements. The authority will replace, and bring a new coherence to the work of, the National Curriculum Council and the School Examinations and Assessment Council.

It is to keep the curriculum for maintained schools and examinations and assessment under review, and to advise the government accordingly, and to publish information on these matters.

The authority is to advise the government on recognition of qualifications or courses taught in schools, working closely with the National Council for Vocational Qualifications on vocational options, and to advise upon, and carry out if requested by the education secretary, programmes of research and development.

The authority will have up to 15 members, including a chairman appointed by the education secretary, who will also appoint the first chief executive. The authority will appoint subsequent chief executives, with the minister's approval. The authority will need to draw in particular on the advice of Her Majesty's chief inspector,

who will be an assessor to the authority.

Spiritual and Moral Development: at the heart of schools' educational and pastoral policy and practice should lie a set of shared values promoted through the curriculum and expectations governing behaviour of pupils and staff.

The government proposes that any local education authority (LEA) that has not done so should be required, within a specified period, to review their agreed syllabus for religious education in the light of the Education Reform Act 1988. However, it proposes that any grant maintained school currently required to reach the agreed syllabus adopted by the LEA in its area, should have the option of choosing any agreed syllabus adopted since introduction of the 1988 Act.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs: LEAs will retain responsibility for identifying and assessing pupils with SEN, making statements and arranging provision.

It is proposed that legisla-

tion should provide that where, after consultation, a maintained school is named by an LEA in a statement, or substituted by virtue of a tribunal's determination of an appeal, the governing body and the LEA, in the case of an LEA school, or the governing body of a GM school, should be required to admit the child.

All LEA-maintained special schools will come under schemes of local management from April 1994. The government believes that it is in principle right that, once special schools have delegated management, they should be given the choice to ballot parents on GM status.

From the 10 per cent entry point, the funding agency and the LEA will discharge concurrently the duties to have regard to the need for securing special provision, and to ensure maintenance of places for pupils with statements in schools in the area.

The education secretary will have power to require the LEA or funding agency to make proposals for rationalisation of its special

schools. He will have discretion to put forward proposals alongside these.

Specialisation and Diversity in Schools: the government will look to increase diversity by encouraging, in addition to the National Curriculum, the formation of different types of schools and schools specialising in particular subjects, sometimes in partnership with business. Such specialisation does not mean selection, which implies choice by the school, but increased choice for pupils.

Specialisation in a curriculum area, such as music, languages or technology, will depend on the quality of teaching a school can offer and the range of opportunities available for pupils to focus on that area. Variations in lesson time in school suggest that individual schools could find more time by extension of the school day or year.

Arrangements will permit sponsor governors in voluntary-aided and GM schools.

The government plans to widen the network of CTCs and Technology Schools by encouraging creation of Technology Colleges offering a broad curriculum with emphasis on science and technology, or on technology within other curriculum areas, such as modern languages or business studies. Unlike CTCs, they will not be confined to urban areas.

Surplus places will lead to closures and transfer of resources

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Children have only one chance and should not be allowed to suffer from the demise of a school, the white paper says

The government is determined that the number of surplus places in schools should be reduced and the resources released for redeployment.

Local education authorities (LEAs), and the funding agency from the 10 per cent entry point will be under a duty to review and report to the secretary of state annually on the supply of places in their respective sectors.

The funding agency, from the 10 per cent entry point, will be able to propose the rationalisation of grant maintained schools, including the expansion of popular schools. The secretary of state will have a new power of direction requiring the funding agency or an LEA, or both, to bring forward rationalisation proposals against specific criteria and within a specified timescale.

In cases where he brings forward his own proposals, the secretary of state will be under a duty to arrange for a local public enquiry.

From the 10 per cent entry point, the funding agency will be able to bring forward proposals for the establishment of new grant maintained schools and to propose the

closure, enlargement or significant change of character of existing grant maintained schools. But the funding agency will not be able to propose a change in the religious character of a school under any circumstances.

Pupil admission and attendance:

As the number of grant maintained schools rises, parents will increasingly be able to apply for places for their children at one or more grant maintained schools, at the same time as expressing a preference among LEA schools.

It is proposed that, after consultation with the governing body, which will have a right of appeal to the secretary of state, the LEA should have the power to direct any maintained school to take a child who would otherwise be without a place. This power in relation to both grant maintained and LEA maintained

schools will pass to the funding agency at the 75 per cent entry point.

LEAs and voluntary schools: LEAs will retain certain responsibilities for all pupils in their areas; for special education and statements; and for certain other pupil specific and support services.

Those schools which choose to remain with their LEAs will continue, as now, to be subject to the provisions of local management of schools legislation, the frontiers of which the government intends to push forward as far as possible.

Some LEAs are already considering maximum delegation of budgets to their schools, while continuing to offer support to these schools on the basis of service agreements. The government would like to see more LEAs consider the benefits of this approach.

At present there are statutory obstacles which deny local authorities the organisational flexibility which they need to respond properly to the evolution of their educational functions. The government proposes to remove such obstacles. In particular the requirement to establish an education committee. Some local authorities may soon be in sight of no longer needing them.

LEAs will remain responsible for the provision, where necessary, of board and lodging, for educational psychology and welfare services and for home to school transport.

LEAs offer a range of educational advice, support and training services to their own schools and to others. The government expects that increasingly the private sector will step in to provide such services.

Some local authorities are moving to establish trusts to undertake the organisation and delivery of services such as teaching music to individuals.

LEAs will be permitted to provide services to grant maintained schools, for a period of two years only.

Voluntary schools:

The government wishes to see the role of the churches and other voluntary bodies in education preserved and enhanced. It looks to them to play a positive part in the further development of grant maintained schools.

Failing schools: It is the responsibility of the government and the education service to provide pupils everywhere with the same opportunities. The reality all too often is that some pupils are deprived of that right.

Parents with children at failing schools often feel powerless and frustrated. Children only have the chance of one school career; they should not be allowed to suffer from the long drawn out demise of a failing school.

Many schools have a lot of money but produce poor education. The failure is usually one of leadership and of management at school level. It has been shown that, with strong leadership and effective management, schools in disadvantaged areas can flourish.

The government has it in mind to ask HMCI to organise the first cycle of inspections beginning September 1993 so as to maximise the

EDUCATION ACTS

The 17 education acts since 1979 include:

- Education Act 1980: schools to have separate governing bodies, to include governors elected by parents and teachers; parents' right to information to help them to choose schools; the assisted places scheme.
- Education Act 1981: responsibilities of LEAs and mainstream schools to children with special needs.
- Education (No 2) Act 1986: more power to governor; academic freedom of speech; end to corporal punishment.
- Teachers' Pay and Conditions Act 1987: advisory committee on teachers' pay and conditions.
- Education Reform Act 1988: opting out; delegation of budgets to schools; the national curriculum; Schools Examinations and Assessment Council.
- Education (Schools) Act 1992: new chief inspectorate appointing private teams to inspect schools once every four years; parent's charter and league tables.

early coverage of schools likely to be "at risk". In addition, the secretary of state may ask HMCI to inspect any school which he receives particularly disturbing reports.

New powers of LEAs:

Wherever a county or voluntary controlled school is identified as "at risk", the government will expect the governing body to work with the LEA to take urgent remedial action. However, if the governing body is unable or unwilling to take effective action, it will be necessary for the LEA to play a greater role. It is proposed that, in the

case of schools which have been identified as at risk by an inspection report, LEAs should have:

- A new power to appoint additional governors; and
- An enhanced power to withdraw delegation. With delegation withdrawn the LEA would have greater influence over staffing matters.

Education associations: When the secretary of state believes that the LEA and governors have failed to improve standards at an "at risk" county or voluntary controlled school, the government proposes that he should

have the power to bring in an education association to put the school under new management until its performance has reached a satisfactory level.

An education association will, effectively, be in the position of a grant maintained governing body but appointed by the secretary of state. It could subsequently take in as many schools in the area, including neighbouring LEAs, as were found to be failing.

The education association will be expected to set up procedures to consult and benefit from the advice of the local community — parents, business, industry and other interested parties. At the end of its stewardship, the education association will report to the secretary of state on its progress in raising standards at the school. The normal expectation is that the school will then become grant maintained.

Not all voluntary schools are of a uniformly high standard. The government will want to be sure that existing powers available to the trustees or diocesan concerned are sufficient to enable effective action to be taken.

Patten accused of stifling democracy

NUT attacks paper as charter for selection

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TEACHERS' unions, local authorities and Opposition spokesmen were quick to condemn the long-awaited white paper as a charter for centralisation, which did nothing to address the under-funding of schools.

Doug McAvoy, president of the National Union of Teachers, said the proposals had more to do with political structures and financial control than the rights of parents and children. The edging out of local authority education committees and new powers to remove governors showed that Mr Patten was centralising education.

"Wherever he fears the democracy may be heard, he seeks to silence it. But by doing so the government can no longer hide its responsibility for what happens in our schools and what is available in our schools," Specialisation would mean the return of selection, he said, and it "ignored the developing and changing nature of children's abilities".

Margaret Morrissey of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, said the paper confirmed that opted-out schools would be treated preferentially. "We believe the proposed new legislation will help and support GM [grant-maintained] schools and leave many others with little or no choice, and many in great threat of closure. No other ministry would presume to make a radical reform of this nature without Treasury support."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, welcomed the merger of examination and curriculum councils and the attention paid to special needs but said that opting out was not an

educational panacea as the white paper assumed. "The slow rate at which schools have opted out is proof enough that they are not popular with parents and that their extension requires further substantial assistance from the government," GM schools were "opting out of the LEA firing pan and into the funding agency fire".

Ann Taylor, Labour's new education spokesman, said the white paper was a recipe for local confusion. "What we need is proper local co-ordination, proper local support for our schools. The government is wrong to pretend that you can squeeze the local authorities and somehow not create more problems," Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, said the plans were "a pathetic failure and a wasted opportunity", offering a fragmented service run by a remote bureaucracy.

The Association of London Authorities said Mr Patten's invoice disguised an admission that LEAs could not be dispensed with. "The proposals do not spell the death of the local education authority," Chris Adamson, education chair, said. "In giving extra powers to LEAs to deal with failing schools, the government has had to recognise the value of a locally, democratically accountable network for schools."

Both sides in the heated debate on opting out claimed their views had been vindicated. The Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation said the proposals heralded the end of the local authority and would ease the passage of schools into the GM sector. Local Schools Information, the LEA-funded pressure group, said the white paper con-

tained "little that will make opting out more attractive to the vast majority of parents who have so far shown little or no interest in it".

The reaction of head teachers to a blueprint that included proposals for managerial "hit squads" was predictably cool. David Burbridge, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that the white paper had come at a time when schools were already strained by government reform. "It contains no commitment whatsoever to greater funding for schools education, and is not precise about how funds are to be allocated between schools."

Pat Mullany, chair of the Council of Local Education Authorities, said the white paper would erode parental choice. "Choice will be reserved for articulate parents who can manipulate the system at the expense of the poor and needy". The proposals had nothing to improve teacher morale, education funding or the state of buildings.



Hostile reception: many schools will be threatened with closure, claims Margaret Morrissey, of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations

Outsiders will enforce opt-outs

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

SCHOOLS that persistently fail their pupils will be taken over by outsiders, appointed by the education secretary and steered to grant-maintained status without parental ballot, under radical plans unveiled in yesterday's white paper.

The plan, which bears the stamp of Number 10 as much as that of the education department, confirms the government's determination to overhaul schools judged by inspectors to be "at risk", as disclosed in *The Times* last month. The white paper said low educational standards usually reflected poor leadership and management and could be solved only by strong intervention.

John Patten said yesterday that there were a "substantial number" of schools in need of reform, and that his department already had "a little list" drawn up. "We will not hold back. We will not hesitate to go to the rescue of those children in those schools who are being let down, on the independent advice of the Chief Inspector of Schools."

The first cycle of new-style inspections carried out by private teams will be organised

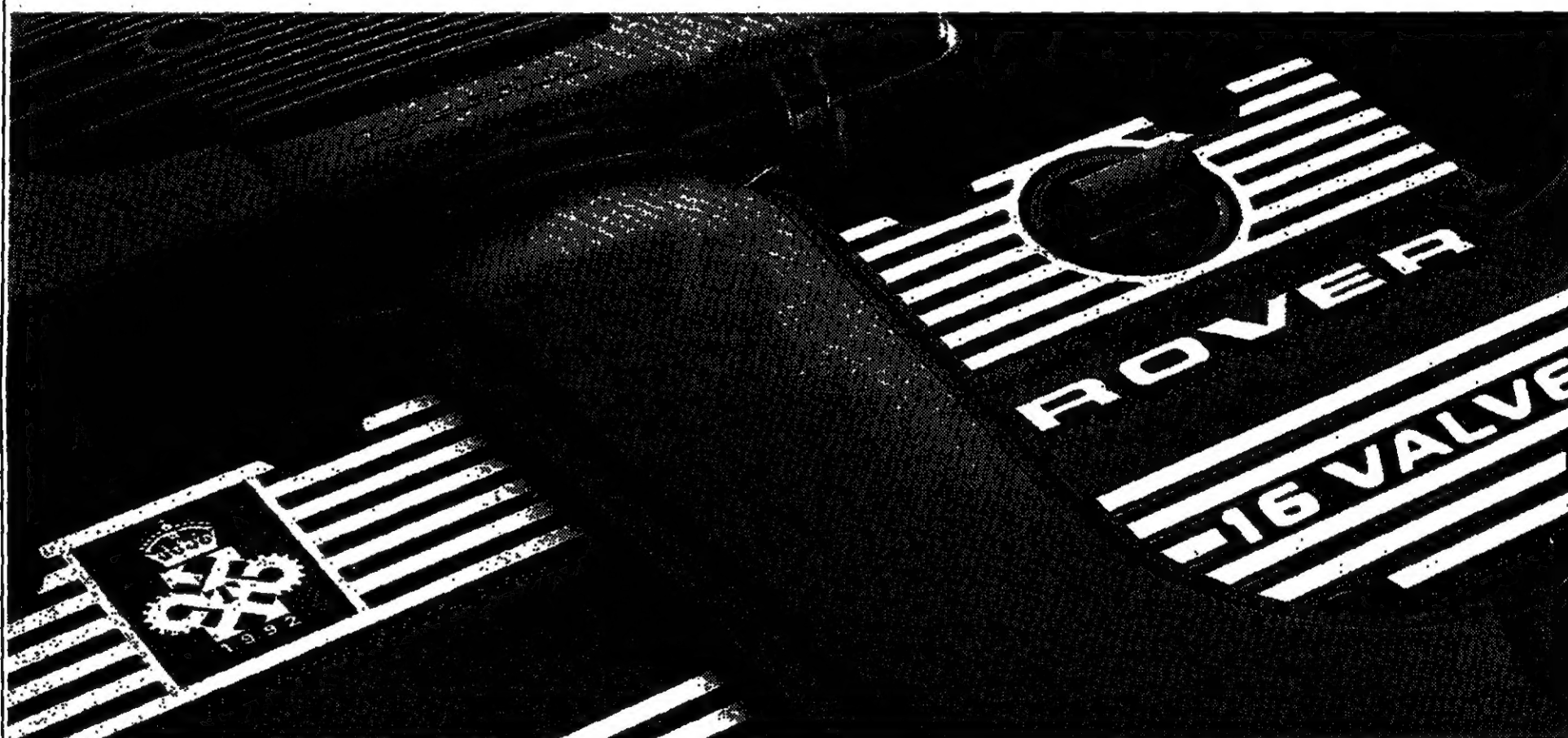
FAILED SCHOOLS

to cover as many failing schools as possible. Those targeted by inspectors will be required to produce an action plan and local education authorities will be given new powers to appoint additional governors or withdraw delegation of funding. LEAs will be expected to deliver proposals within eight weeks, a process by which they would be "shamed publicly", Mr Patten said.

If these measures fail, the education secretary will move in an education association (EA), a team of six outside managers, typically former head teachers.

An EA will temporarily perform a role similar to that of a governing body in an opted-out school, including responsibility for the school's grant, which will be received directly from the education department. It will have powers to hire and fire staff and propose changes to a school's character. EAs will prepare the ground for opting out, and, in a dramatic break with past practice, bypass the usual parental ballot.

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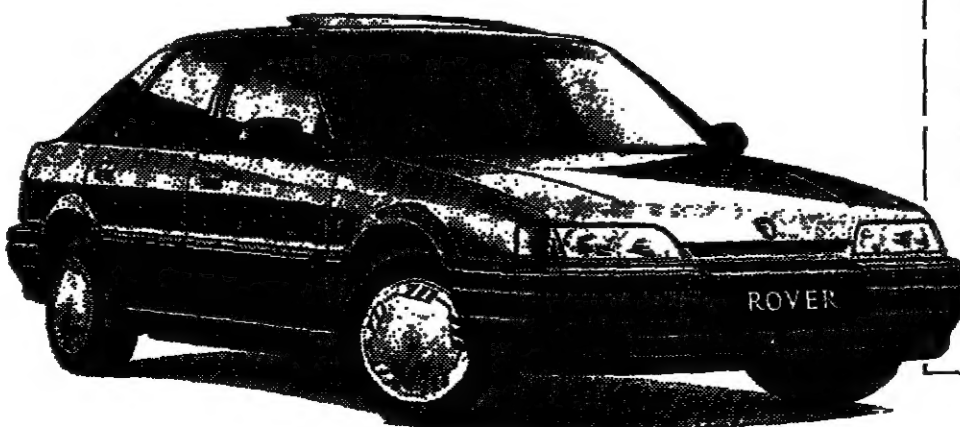
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Patten stakes future on death of authorities

The education secretary wants to take schools out of the realm of local politics, John O'Leary reports

John Patten, the education secretary, has staked his own future, as well as that of state schools, on a combination of parent power and central control to raise standards in the classroom.

Billed as the successor to R. A. Butler's 1944 Education Act, Mr Patten's white paper addresses a range of issues as diverse as the schools he hopes to see develop. Although the progressive demise of the local education authority occupies many of the 64 pages, new curriculum and examination advice, increased specialisation, and even spiritual and moral development have their place.

The patchwork of measures proposed for legislation in the autumn is intended to ensure that opting out takes off on the scale predicted by ministers at the last two elections. Parental choice remains the government's guiding principle but an array of central agencies will have a role in the new education system.

Mr Patten, who wrote sections of the white paper himself, said yesterday that his aim was to take education out of local politics. Although local education authorities will retain responsibility for a range of services and control those schools that do not opt out, the government clearly intends their days to be numbered. Even the obligation for councils to have an education committee will disappear.

Only 280 schools have opted out since the 1988 Education Reform Act started the process, barely more than 1 per cent of England's 24,000 primary and secondary schools. In Wales, the total still stands at only three.

The white paper proposes to speed up the drawn-out application procedure, which takes about nine months, and prevent local authorities from mounting expensive campaigns to persuade parents against change. Small schools will be encouraged to opt out in clusters.

Uncertainty still surrounds the crucial question

of funding. The incentives that have encouraged many schools to opt out will be at risk in the government's public spending clamp-down, and a national funding formula to be operated by the new agency for grant-maintained schools will not be constructed until the autumn.

Mr Patten promised a simpler method of calculating grant to opt-out schools as their numbers increased, linked closely to pupil numbers. He is confident that the attractions of greater autonomy and flexibility for heads and governors will prove incentive enough to achieve his target of 1,500 grant-maintained schools within two years.

There is, however, little in the white paper to suggest that he will achieve his other main aim of encouraging more specialisation and diversity. Although Mr Patten says that he already has a host of applications for various types of specialisation, only the flagging city technology college programme and the limited Technology Schools Initiative are offered as models.

Selection will continue to be based on its merits locally, although Mr Patten disclosed that he has not had a single application to introduce a selective intake since taking office. The white paper takes pains to distinguish between academic selection and the identification of an aptitude for a particular specialisation.

With opting out and the regime to tackle failing schools commanding most attention, important changes such as the merging of the government's curriculum and examination advisory bodies are likely to pass almost unnoticed. The political battles will be fought on administrative questions.

Mr Patten faced a difficult task to create a system from the reforms piloted by his predecessors. The legislation to appear in the autumn may not last the promised 25 years, but it will alter the education landscape fundamentally.

Shades of the great dictators darken the Balkans



Stalin: brutal legacy being re-enacted

AS AN international conference on the plight of refugees from former Yugoslavia opens today in Geneva, the Bosnian government will make a dramatic plea for tens of thousands of civilians that it believes are being held in Serbian-run internment camps. Serbian leaders will reply in kind and both sides are expected to present lists with the locations of camps and estimated numbers.

According to the list prepared by the Bosnian government, there are 48 Serbian-run detention centres and internment camps in the republic, six in Serbia and three in Montenegro. It will tell the conference that according to their estimates 95,390 people are imprisoned in these centres. Almost all are civilians and some prison camps house entire families or just men, women and children.

All sides to the conflict claim that civilians are being held in internment camps. Tim Judah writes from Zagreb

Events in Bosnia today, and other parts of former Yugoslavia, can certainly be classified as monstrous war crimes but above all they are a warning against the complacency of those who grew up after the second world war, secure in the belief that the crimes committed in the name of Hitler and Stalin could never again be seen in Europe.

Pierre-André Conod, the chief delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for Croatia and parts of Bosnia said: "In this conflict international humanitarian law is a dead letter. Unacceptable practices are going on, including mass

expulsions and the concentration of people in camps based on their ethnic origin."

M Conod said that ICRC delegates had recently been permitted to visit a small number of detention centres—Serb and Croat—in which men were being held. He said that the ICRC had been told that the detainees were "prisoners of war".

Schools, barracks and sports centres are being used to detain people as are factories and, allegedly, tunnels. While there are unconfirmed reports of executions and mass killings in these camps, their purpose appears to be to gather in people of the

"wrong" nationality who will then be deported to other areas or exchanged for prisoners of the "right" nationality.

Most Muslim men expelled from the northern Bosnian town of Bosanski Novi last week said they had spent time imprisoned in the town's sports stadium. The largest concentration of Serb-run detention centres is believed to be around the town of Prijedor. According to the Bosnian government list, 2,300 people are being held in one of four Prijedor camps, at or down a coal mine at Ljubija. Serb leaders allege that Muslims are holding thousands prisoner in Sarajevo and in the eastern town of Gorazde.

Relief officials say that mass kidnappings are frequent and that they become part of a vicious circle of hostage taking, exchanges and "ethnic cleansing". While the majority



of prisoners are Muslims, in some areas Serbs and Croats have reached amicable and lucrative deals by which people of their own nationality, but in territory controlled by the other side, can escape. Croats and Serbs who can afford to pay amounts said to run up to £300 can buy places on buses moving between territory held by the opposing sides.

"One would not have anticipated this in the heart of Europe today," lamented M

Conod yesterday. He is right, but such appalling expulsions and mass migrations are also utterly the norm viewed in the context of the brutal sweep of Balkan history. Hundreds of thousands died in camps and massacres in Bosnia during the last war, and waves of Bosnian Muslims migrated to Turkey in 1878 and 1908 as Ottoman power was replaced by that of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

The eastern Croatian town of Tlok, from which Croats fled last year after it was taken by the Yugoslav army, is a classic case of shifting populations. Today it is being repopulated by Serbs who have fled Croatian-controlled territory. Before the second world war it had large German and Jewish populations. Under the Ottoman empire it was predominantly populated by Muslims but before that by Catholics.

Rome MPs to approve austerity measures

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

A PARLIAMENTARY confidence vote on an austerity budget should be won today by Giuliano Amato, the Italian prime minister, but the emergency package is only the first dose of unpleasant medicine that "Dr Subtle" must prescribe.

The decree at the heart of the urgent measures is designed to cut the 1992 budget deficit by £15 billion to prevent it reaching an estimated £85-£90 billion. Government economists believe that the manoeuvre will enable them to contain the over-spending at a level slightly below the deficit of some £76 billion notched up last year.

Signor Amato's government has only a 16-seat majority in the Chamber of Deputies. But he has made clear that the country could return to the polls if a decree is not approved. The political parties are in no mood for that so soon after the April general election.

Even after approval of the decree, deficit expenditure this year is expected to be around £75 billion, well above the deficit target of £64 billion set by the previous government, led by Giulio Andreotti. The government has broken new ground by serving notice that parliament may have to postpone adjourning for its summer recess for at least a week, to August 15, to enable further economic legislation to be approved, a prospect that has disgruntled MPs already suffering in the Roman heat.

The emergency manoeuvre will leave the deficit at some 10 per cent of gross domestic product, way beyond the European Community requirement of around 3 per cent. Merely stabilising the huge government debt by trimming the deficit will be difficult enough after the Bank of Italy was forced to increase its discount rate last week to defend the lira.

In his month of office, Signor Amato has seemed more determined than his predecessors to tackle Italy's economic troubles. Yesterday he admitted: "We are going through a phase in which everything seems to be against us: the economy, finance, currency markets, the Mafia, the crisis of political parties."

However, foreign experts fear that he will find it hard to resort again to the one-off measures used in the emergency budget—a tax on bank savings accounts and a tax on housing. "There will be a huge increase in Swiss bank accounts held by Italians or people keeping their money under the mattress," one Rome-based diplomat said.

Laws to be approved as part of the emergency budget should set in motion long overdue reforms of pensions, health care, local government spending and civil service employment. But it is widely expected that these will be amended by deputies.

A privatisation programme billed as the biggest shake-up in ownership since Mussolini pioneered state-sponsored development is well-intentioned. However, the government last week dropped a plan to put four key public enterprises into two super-holding companies, perplexing international bankers.

The woes of the Italian economy are not of Signor Amato's making. It would have been far easier to introduce unpopular measures three years ago, when growth was healthy and Italian exports were booming. Today industry is grappling with a minor recession and trade unions are loath to make wage concessions needed to bring down inflation.

Italy wants aid in war on Mafia

Rome: Giuliano Amato, the Italian prime minister, has called on the intelligence services to infiltrate the Mafia and has appealed indirectly for international help in the war against organised crime (John Phillips writes).

"The mafioso phenomenon is not only an Italian phenomenon, and sometimes when it strikes Italy it is because... too much elbow room has been given, not necessarily in Italy," the Socialist leader told state-run television.

Signor Amato was responding to criticism of his government following the murder on Monday night of Giovanni Lizzio, a police inspector, in the Sicilian city of Catania, only eight days after the assassination in Palermo of Paolo Borsellino, the anti-Mafia judge killed by a bomb outside his mother's home. Police have said that his killers listened in on a telephone call to the judge's sister and heard him mention his intended visit to his mother.

Royal rejection

Bucharest: King Michael, the exiled Romanian monarch, has turned down an offer by the National Liberal party to be its candidate in the presidential elections, the liberal newspaper *Romania Libera* reported. (Reuters)

Dissident held

Peking: Wang Wanzhi, arrested while commemorating the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre last month, says in a smuggled letter he has been confined to a mental hospital and forcibly given psychiatric drugs. (Reuters)

Yalta meeting

Kiev: President Yeltsin and President Kravchuk of Ukraine will meet in Yalta on Monday for talks to end their dispute over control of the Black Sea fleet. Last week a vessel flew the Ukrainian flag, adding to the row. (Reuters)

Border hope

Seoul: North and South Korea have agreed to consider opening a land link across the demilitarised zone that divides the two nations. "There was progress today," a spokesman for the South said. (Reuters)

Gun searches

Kuwait: After the failure of a year-long drive to persuade Kuwaitis to hand in illegal arms, the national assembly has passed a law giving the interior ministry the power to seal off entire districts for house-to-house searches. (AP)

US consults allies on military action to escort Bosnia relief

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United States is consulting its allies on the use of military force to protect the delivery of relief supplies to stricken Bosnia.

John Bolton, the assistant Secretary of State for international organisations, said in Geneva yesterday that the US was not in favour of military action "at this point. But we would support a security council resolution to authorise the use of all necessary means to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance... We're in consultations right now."

Among the methods being considered is the parachuting of relief into the town of Gorazde, where up to 70,000 Muslims are desperately short of food. Bosnian officials had said that airdrops were the only way to get food and medicine into the town after a United Nations convoy failed to get through last week.

"The situation in Gorazde is certainly desperate and we

would be willing to look at airdrops if we can't get through by road," said Mr Bolton. He said there was reason to believe that the UN convoy had been ambushed, though he did not say by whom. But he did not specify whether the United States would provide aircraft for such an operation.

Consultations on a new UN resolution, authorising the use of force to accompany the delivery of relief supplies, have so far been between capitals, although they are expected to start soon in New York. Britain, the current European Community president and host of the EC-sponsored talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina, is said to be sceptical about the idea. Diplomats say, however, that a new resolution could be rendered unnecessary by a meeting in Geneva today.

One idea that may be discussed at the meeting is a proposal by France that Kurd-

ish-style safe havens should be established for the refugees this winter. Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, yesterday gave a cautious welcome to the plan, but said a ceasefire would have to be imposed first so that refugees could get to the safe havens.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees plans to present a seven-point plan for alleviating the worst refugee problem in Europe since the second world war. The plan includes provisions for humanitarian access to refugees, increased medical supplies and financial aid. It encourages European countries to accept more refugees, but does not include the controversial idea of imposing quotas on the number of refugees each country must take.

Today Milan Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, flies to London to see John Major, preparatory to the peace conference on Yugoslavia to be held next month. Yesterday he arrived unannounced in Geneva and said he did not want to fight and was "not Saddam Hussein". He agreed to stick by the internal borders of Yugoslavia established by President Tito "until something better comes along, like self-determination".

At the London peace talks on Bosnia yesterday, Haris Silajdzic, its foreign minister, reiterated his refusal to negotiate "while the streets are littered with corpses", casting further doubt on the prospects for progress. He said that the proposed division of the republic would produce ethnic splits "drawn in blood".

José Cutileiro, the EC negotiator, was canvassing views at separate meetings in London with Bosnia's three warring factions about a constitutional blueprint splitting Bosnia-Herzegovina, a plan acceptable to Serbs and Croats but not to Muslims. After meeting Senhor Cutileiro, Radovan Karadzic, Bosnia's Serbian leader, backed the initiative.

But Mr Silajdzic, who says he is here to inform and not to negotiate, told a news conference: "We are not prepared to talk at gunpoint while we are being besieged... while our streets are strewn with unburied bodies." Rejecting any carve-up of the republic, he said: "These ethnic lines can only be drawn in blood." He added: "It's up to the international community to reject this idea of ethnic cleansing."

While the three leaders were in London, rival forces fought sporadic artillery duels in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital.



Animal passion: a jacquard silk lamé jacket with a gold elephant motif over an embroidered skirt and with a gold and grey shawl, part of Christian Dior's autumn collection presented in Paris by Gianfranco Ferré. He put on a breathtaking collection that was trimmed, lined and draped with luxurious furs, leather and feathers. Iridescent taffeta and satin snowsuits in ultramarine, burgundy and hunter green were reversed to be luscious mink or sable coats. Smart narrow charcoal dresses had oversized leather bows at the neck or ascots of ruffled white organza. They were worn with silver fox stoles and leather tam with tufts

of matching fur. Rooster feathers trimmed a black voile draped party dress, and a suit and jacket of white lace on black had an enormous boa scarf and hat. Emanuel Ungaro, turning away from floral prints that dominated his past collections, opted for simpler, seductive black. Against a black set, decorated with huge red lips, models paraded velvet boleros and toggles over dark A-line skirts. Designs of lips and eyes were applied over bodies on lace evening gowns sprayed with sequin embroidery. Chinese silk brocade coats provided luxury winter wear. (Reuters)

Tests on remains of Romanovs revive Anastasia mystery

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN YEKATERINBURG

AN American forensic scientist who helped identify the remains of Tsar Nicholas II and most of his murdered family said yesterday that the 74-year-old mystery of what happened to the tsar's two youngest children, Anastasia and Alexei, is still unsolved. Their whereabouts have been the subject of legend and controversy since the Bolsheviks executed Russia's imperial family in 1918 and dumped their bodies in a pit near Yekaterinburg, in the Ural mountains.

Dr William Maples, director of the C. A. Pound human identification laboratory at the University of Florida-Gainesville, told a conference examining the Romanov family remains that three of the

skeletons belonged to Olga Maria and Tatiana, the eldest children of Tsar Nicholas and his wife, Tsarina Alexandra. He also said the tsar, his wife and the family doctor, Sergei Botkin, were buried in the grave, confirming identifications made by Russian scientists in June. The remaining three skeletons were a middle-aged white female and two middle-aged white men, which appeared to correspond to three servants who also had been shot, Dr Maples said.

"All the skeletons appear to be too tall to be Anastasia, and in the skeletal material we have looked at there is nothing that could represent Alexei," Dr Maples said. "We're still left with a mys-

tery, and it's going to be interesting for some time to come."

The Russians have said they are continuing to search for the other two skeletons, and they plan to conduct genetic tests, with British scientists, on bones and hair from the site. Aleksandr Avdonin, who was in charge of the group that found the mass grave, said that searches have expanded the area where they think the pair might be.

Over the years, stories arose that somehow Nicholas's youngest daughter, Anastasia, and possibly even the royal heir, Alexei, had survived the execution. A young woman who appeared in Berlin in 1920 claimed to be

the tsar's daughter. Russian scientists began studying the Romanovs' remains after the skeletons of five females and four males were dug up on July 12 last year from the pit near Yekaterinburg. On July 17, 1918, local Bolsheviks, on the orders of Lenin, executed the tsar and his family in the house where they had been held prisoner in the town.

Russian scientists identified the tsar and his wife by using a computer to match the skulls with photographs. They are using the same method on the remaining skeletons, along with examinations of teeth and bones. The Russians allowed an American team of six forensic specialists to examine skulls, bones and dental work.



Royal enigma: the fate of Anastasia has been the subject of controversy for more than 70 years

Death respects no race or creed in battered Sarajevo

Only since the war have people heeded religious and ethnic origins, Adam LeBor writes from Sarajevo

AT 11 am sharp they buried Leo Sternberg. His coffin, a plain rectangular plywood box, sat waiting on the edge of his grave, one of dozens freshly dug at Sarajevo's Lion cemetery. The birthdates vary: some are children, others middle-aged or elderly. But all have one thing in common, the year of their death: 1992.

The team of gravediggers gently lowered the coffin into the ground. There were no mourners and no rabbi to say *Kaddish*, the Jewish prayer for the dead. A Star of David was stuck on the wooden board that marked his and hundreds of other graves. Born in 1924, Leo Sternberg now lies among the row of fellow victims on a slope overlooking the city's Winter Olympics complex.

The Lion cemetery is a gruesome place. Unused for decades, it was a popular meeting place for young lovers until it was reopened soon after the Bosnian civil war began in April. Human arm and leg bones are scattered around the new graves for the two dozen gravediggers sometimes inadvertently disturb old human remains. This month alone over 560 people have been buried here.

Death does not discriminate but the cemetery is divided into different sections: one each for Muslims, Croat Catholics, Serb Orthodox and another for atheists where Leo Sternberg was laid to rest, as the city's Jewish cemetery is now a Serbian stronghold.

The victims here "are all religious," said Maric Ivan, a gravedigger who usually buries between five and 15 people a day. His busiest time was shortly after a grenade attack when 45 people were buried. "To us it's just work, burying more dead men but I don't feel good when the blood drips out from a coffin."

By mid-morning the cemetery is crowded with weeping mourners. Grief hangs in the air like a black cloud as the mourners file in. Uniformed soldiers and military police

men come to pay their respects to their fallen comrades, fathers try to keep their features composed while mothers, daughters and sisters cry openly.

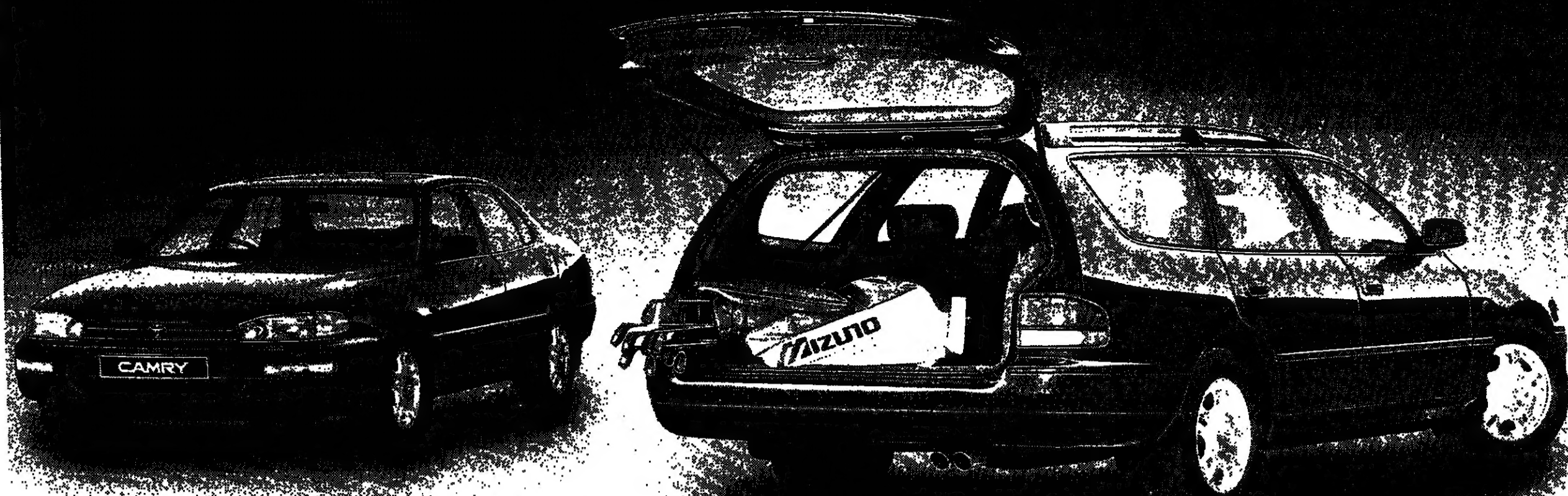
In the far corner, near the shot-up bus that sits abandoned in the road are friends and relatives of Senad Sadrovic. They kneel as a Muslim priest intones the prayers for the dead in Arabic. A Muslim gypsy, Sadrovic, 23, was killed by a pistol shot in the market place.

A woman's scream pierces the sounds of mourning as the gravediggers shovel earth over the coffin of Branko Plekoska, a policeman in his 40s of mixed Serb and Croat origin. It is only since the war began, according to residents of this cosmopolitan city where mixed marriages were common, that people even began to notice their compatriots' religion and ethnic origin.

Mirjana Milanovic was perhaps the only person who died of natural causes to be buried there that day, or at least not as a victim of bullets, mortar or artillery fire. The 88-year-old Serb woman was an invalid, living on the sixth floor of a building in the suburbs of Trebevic, a Serb stronghold. During the weeks of bombardment she was too ill to be moved into the basement shelter. Instead she was left alone in the corridor of her block of flats. She died probably of heart failure.

A Serb, a Muslim, a mixed Serb and a Croat and a Jew, Bosnian inhabitants cannot now live together, but in death at least they are united, their funeral requiem the crack of gunfire and boom of artillery that echoed around the cemetery all day.

Barcelona: The Olympic city of Barcelona is organising an aid convoy to Sarajevo after its mayor, Muhammad Kre-sevjakovic, came to the Games to ask for help. He made his appeal at a meeting of 60 European city leaders last Sunday. (Reuters)



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Baghdad still defiant as arms monitors get ministry access

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

UNITED Nations weapons inspectors yesterday began the hunt, after a three-week delay, for secrets inside Iraq's ministry of agriculture with no sign of a halt to Baghdad's defiance towards America.

As the compromise team from countries excluding America, Britain and France, entered the building, thousands of well-orchestrated demonstrators marched through the capital, shouting: "Bush, Bush, listen, we all love Saddam Hussein."

Undeterred by continuing threats of renewed American military strikes, reinforced by the imminent arrival of a third US aircraft carrier in the region, the state-controlled media used the occasion to step up its abuse of President Bush. Saddam Hussein's press secretary, Abduljabbar Mohsen, writing in the Baath party daily *Al-Furqa*, denounced the US leader as a "tunnel-vision charlatan" and "a vagabond full of rancour, savage and a hag".

He announced that huge demonstrations would be staged throughout the coming days in support of Saddam's stand against "American aggression". The article, maintaining Iraq's claim that the stand-off over the UN search had resulted in a victory for Baghdad, added: "Massive demonstrations will spread throughout the provinces in which the Iraqi people will express their loyalty to the triumphant leader."

Although the Iraqi military forces are limited in how they can respond to any new attacks, Western military experts said that Iraqi air defences had been re-modelled and could prove a danger that would be difficult to quantify. Diplomatic sources said that although much of the belligerency had been laid on for the hand-picked group of Western media representatives permitted into Baghdad on special visas, it also reflected resentment among ordinary Iraqis over UN sanctions.

The sources envisaged further confrontations over other aspects of the Gulf war ceasefire terms which Iraq is failing to implement. They said that Western plans would enable a response to be made more quickly than during the dispute over weapons inspection. It is feared that Iraq was able to smuggle out vital documents in the period since the search was intended to begin on July 5.

Rolf Ekeus, the Swedish head of the UN special commission on Iraqi weapons, announced yesterday: "The team is there now. They started inspection according to our wish." Asked whether the team, drawn from countries which did not fight Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait, would search every room, Mr Ekeus replied: "We must insist we have in principle the right to search all of the building. We will make use of this right, but respect Iraqi sensitivity."

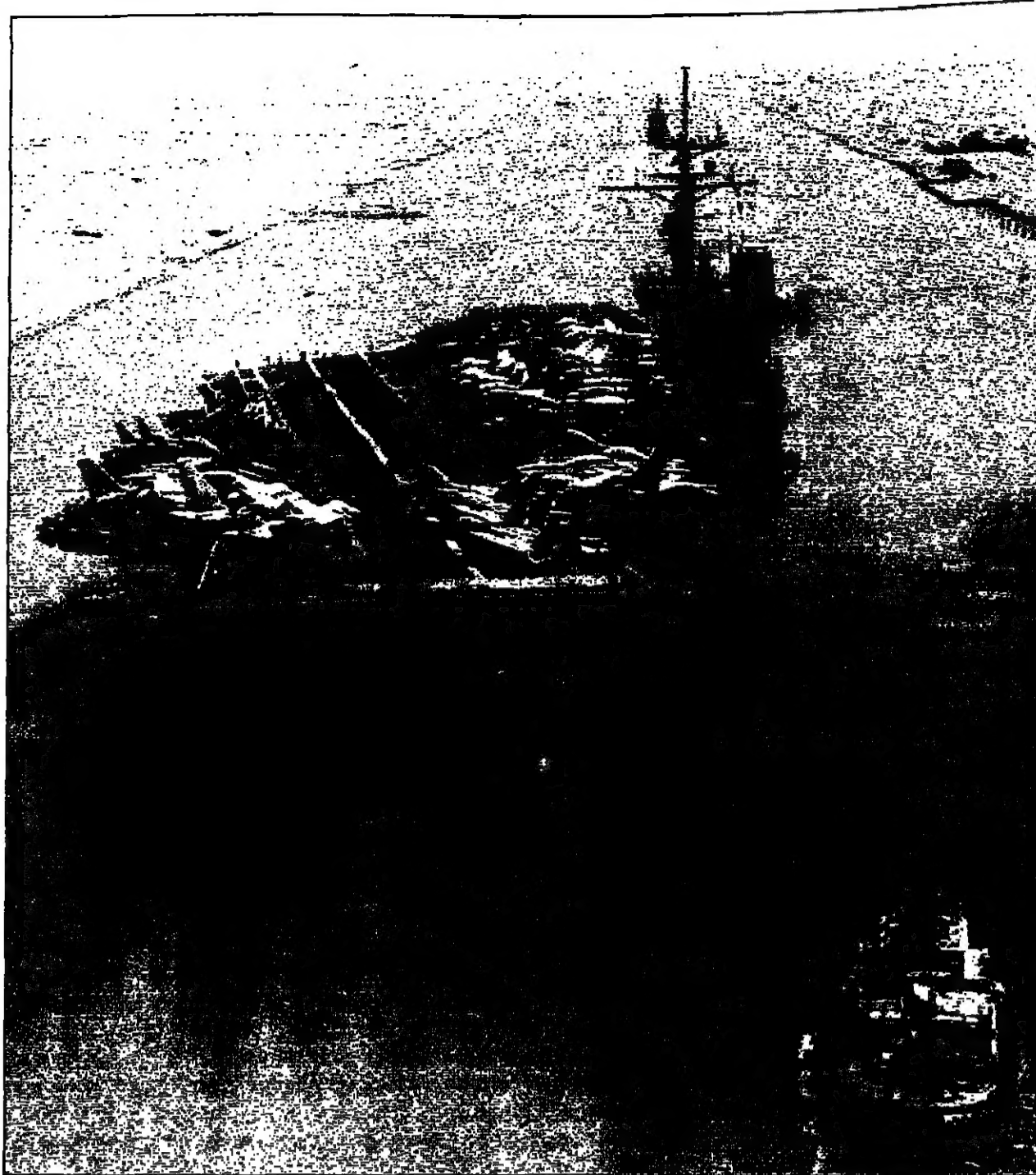
Questioned as to whether the inspectors, now led by Achim Bierman, a German, would search the office of the agriculture minister, a central issue in Iraq's claim that the planned search had been an unacceptable breach of its sovereignty, Mr Ekeus responded diplomatically: "They may not enter that part. That is up to them." Mr Ekeus had earlier admitted that it was likely that anything of interest would have been removed in advance.

The previous team leader, an American, was replaced for the search and the only two Americans remaining in the team operated outside the building ready to sift data. Those experts that entered included a second German, two Russians and one inspector each from Sweden, Finland and Switzerland.

David Kay, a nuclear expert who led previous UN inspection teams to Iraq, expressed concern that Iraq had been able to choose the nationality of the inspectors and to influence the timing of the search. He said it was not impossible that data could still be found. "But certainly what you will find is traces, not the bulk of what was there," he added.

Opposition to renewed military action against Iraq was voiced yesterday by an Egyptian journalist close to the thinking of President Mubarak. Writing in the *Egyptian Gazette*, Samir Ragab voiced a concern to be detected in much of the Arab world, including some countries which supported the anti-Iraq coalition in the Gulf war. "Of course the Gulf area will remain in the grip of instability so long as Saddam is in power. Furthermore, the Iraqi people will remain powerless as long as Saddam and his relatives keep weighing down on them," he said. "Still, the solution by no means lies in bombs, missiles and tanks, which once poured their hell on children, women and men, because of the impetuosity and madness of the 'sole' leader."

At the centre of it, according to the same source, is Barzan Takriti, Saddam's half-brother. He heads the Iraqi mission in Geneva and his country's representation on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. But much of his time is spent on financial transactions for Baghdad.



Armed might: the USS John F. Kennedy, which sailed to the Mediterranean yesterday as Gulf tensions rose

Iraq tests allies' resolve on demands

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WHEN Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, addressed the security council in March, he sought a phased lifting of United Nations sanctions to reward Iraq for its compliance with the resolutions that ended the Gulf war.

But council members rejected any relaxation of sanctions until Baghdad had fulfilled all of its obligations. This month, Iraq responded by sending a letter to the UN secretary-general saying that it had complied completely with UN demands and calling for an end to sanctions. Ahmed Hussein, the foreign minister, wrote: "The maintenance of the embargo against Iraq has therefore lost its meaning, and it is henceforth no more than a simple matter of inflicting harm on a great, proud and noble people."

Obviously, Mr Hussein said that Baghdad now regarded "implementation and non-implementation (of UN

resolutions) as the same thing". In effect, Iraq was saying that it saw no carrots to entice it to comply with UN demands and was daring security council members, particularly the Western allies, to show it the stick. The stick has since been brandished in the form of threats of bombing raids if Iraq continued to refuse to allow UN weapons inspectors into its agriculture ministry. But Iraq has still not complied with all UN resolutions, and still nobody is offering any carrots.

On Monday evening, the security council's sanctions sub-committee held its periodic review of Iraq's compliance with UN requirements and again found no reason to relax the sanctions. The principal UN demands and Iraq's progress towards fulfilling them are as follows:

Weapons: Iraq is required to identify everything related to its nuclear, chemical and

biological weapons programmes and ballistic missiles and to allow any such material to be destroyed. Iraq must also permit long-term UN monitoring of its defence industries.

So far, Iraq has been forced to reveal a great deal about its weapons of mass destruction, allowing 40 UN inspection teams to scour the country. But UN officials suspect it may still be hiding ballistic missiles and nuclear facilities.

Human rights: Iraq is required to stop the repression of Kurds and Shia Muslims. Although Baghdad ended its assault on the Kurds after intervention by the Western allies, it maintains an economic blockade on the Kurdish-controlled north of Iraq.

Oil sales: Iraq was offered the chance to sell \$1.6 billion (£830 million) worth of oil, despite the embargo, to pay for humanitarian operations in the country and to finance UN activities. Because it objects to

UN terms for monitoring the distribution of aid, Iraq has refused to make the oil sale.

War reparations: Iraq is required to contribute a proportion of its future oil revenues to a compensation fund for war victims, but has sought a five-year moratorium on payments. It has also refused to make the limited UN-authorized oil sale that would provide the first money for the fund.

Kuwaiti property: Iraq must return all stolen Kuwaiti property, which it is slowly doing.

Repatriation: It must repatriate more than 7,000 foreign detainees, mostly Kuwaitis. But about 800 Kuwaitis have still not been returned.

Saddam overcomes sanctions with ease

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Robert Gates, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, visited King Hussein of Jordan at his Aqaba summer palace last month it was an indication of the scale of smuggling across the Jordanian-Iraqi border and the concern in Washington at the relative ease with which Saddam Hussein has been able to rebuild his regime.

The king cracked down on the traffic and business slowed down, some believe by as much as a third, and James Baker, the US Secretary of State, followed up with public praise for Jordanian efforts. But the 15,000 lorries that make up the umbilical cord that nourishes the Jordanian economy as much as it does that of Iraq are only the outward and visible sign of a complex and sophisticated network of sanctions-busting — involving 400-500 front companies — that keeps Saddam in power.

The extent of his success can be gauged from the way he has violated 22 of the United Nations ceasefire conditions. The most glaring violations are his use of Sukhoi and MiG airplanes to bomb the Shias in the southern marshes and his defiance of UN demands for access to information on his weapons programme. Everything from weapons

technology to make-up and newspaper appears to be getting through to the elite in Baghdad. Steel and communications equipment come in via Singapore through the port of Aqaba, most of it officially designated for Jordan. The steel, it is believed, is being used to refurbish Iraqi tanks and cannon not to mention the country's military infrastructure.

Last year two North Korean vessels put in to the Jordanian port and it is believed they brought military equipment from Kim Il sung's highly-developed state weapons factories. Pyongyang has put a lot of work into developing a longer-range model of the Scud missile favoured by Saddam.

"It's brazen, the sanctions busting. That's the secret to Saddam's ability to survive. People just did not expect that the system could be so sophisticated. He amazes everybody with his penetration," said a Middle Eastern source.

At the centre of it, according to the same source, is Barzan Takriti, Saddam's half-brother. He heads the Iraqi mission in Geneva and his country's representation on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. But much of his time is spent on financial transactions for Baghdad.

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Mubarak wary of military action

CIA spymaster 'knew of North's secret Nicaraguan mission'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN WASHINGTON

CLAIR George, the former Central Intelligence Agency spymaster, knew by 1985 that Oliver North, the White House aide, was involved in aiding Nicaraguan rebels, a former CIA official testified yesterday at Mr George's criminal trial.

Alan Fiers told a federal jury that he warned Mr George that if the activities of Marine Lieutenant-Colonel North, now retired, became public, the resulting scandal would be "worse than Watergate." Mr Fiers, the former head of the CIA's Central American task force, is the chief prosecution witness against Mr George, who is charged with concealing from Congress his knowledge of the Iran-Contra affair. Mr George, former

head of CIA covert operations, has pleaded not guilty to three charges of obstructing Congress and a federal grand jury and six counts of perjury and false statements. He showed no expression when Mr Fiers was asked to point him out in the courtroom.

Mr Fiers, who pleaded guilty to two Iran-Contra misdemeanours last year, said Duane Clarridge, a former CIA official, urged him in 1984 to co-operate with what Mr Clarridge called "North's special responsibilities" in Central America. Mr Clarridge also faces criminal charges related to Iran-Contra.

Mr Fiers told the jury that he was "cautious and guarded" around Mr North but

soon realized that "Ollie could, as we say in the jargon, roll me" because he was highly influential in the government and Mr Fiers felt he could not resist some of Mr North's requests. During a November 1984 meeting in William Casey's office, then CIA director, Casey made a show of telling Mr North he did not want him to operate in Central America, Mr Fiers said.

But on the way out of the meeting, he said, Mr George told him: "Alan, you've got to understand what happened in there. Sometime in the dark of night Bill Casey said to the president, 'Don't worry, we'll take care of Central America.'" Prosecutors want to show that George had a wealth of information.



Gem of a dress: a £3.6-million wedding gown from Amoreux being modelled in Beverly Hills. It features 24-carat gold and diamond trimmings

Masters of Deception sneak a byte from the Big Apple

BY BEN MACINTYRE

American gang warfare has gone high-tech. Where once the Crips and the Bloods, the Jets and the Sharks fought it out with guns and flick-knives, gangs of computer hackers are now going in to battle with computer viruses.

An intense rivalry has broken out between teenage computer wizards in the poor neighbourhoods around New York who have formed mobs with names such as the Masters of Deception and the Legion of Doom. The prizes are not control of the streets, but mastery of the arcane and often illegal art of computer hacking.

Over the past few years, the gangs have taken to taunting each other by breaking into telephone systems, tapping confidential credit records

and leaving insulting messages in each other's computer systems. What began as harmless competition has become tainted with racism and class conflict, and the federal prosecutors have now moved in.

Last week five members of the Masters of Deception gang aged between 18 and 25 denied breaking into national computer systems, stealing confidential information and selling it. The court indictment accused them of hacking into various telephone and information computer networks "to enhance their image and prestige among computer hackers; to harass and intimidate rival hackers and other people they did not like; to obtain telephone, credit, information and other services without paying for them; and to obtain passwords,

account numbers and other things of value which they could sell to others". The five face large fines and up to five years in prison.

As a result of the rapid development of computer technology, the techniques of hacking are no longer the preserve of rich whites. The cheapest computer and a telephone line are all that is needed to wreak computer havoc when the operator is sufficiently adept.

The Masters of Deception, by computer bulletin boards, are a racially diverse group including blacks, hispanics, Greeks and Italians, with computer nicknames such as Acid Phreak, Phibre Optik, Outlaw and Corrupt. Most are working class and have found in computers a new community, and

allegedly a new source of income. The Legion of Doom, their sworn enemies, includes three wealthy white youths from Texas.

The New York Times reported that when one of the black members of the Masters of Deception received a racist insult via computer mail in 1989, the competition between the two gangs became more intense. When the New York group became convinced their Texan rivals were passing information to the police, war was declared and the alleged criminal activities of the group gained impetus. By tapping into computerised credit ratings, the gang members boasted they could "destroy people's lives or make them look like saints".

The ability to break into vast and expensive networks depends on obtaining the correct password.

This is done by either accessing a network and detecting a key password as it is being used, or buying the relevant password or finding it in discarded training manuals or office refuse.

As the street price for valuable passwords has increased, and computer technology has become more diffuse and inexpensive, the potential for disruption has grown. In 1988 a university student released a computer virus that brought computers across the United States to a shuddering halt.

The intense animosity in the underground computer gang war continues. Even as they awaited trial, members of the Masters of Deception were apparently sending insulting computer messages to their rivals.

Castro visits father's village

FROM KEITH GRANT IN LANCARA, SPAIN

PRESIDENT Castro of Cuba made an emotional first visit to the rural home of his forefathers in north-west Spain yesterday and vowed to continue the struggle for socialism.

The insistent rhythms of a Cuban salsa band drowned out the music of traditional bagpipes as he toured the district in Galicia where his father was born and brought up before emigrating to Cuba at the turn of the century. "This moment has great meaning for me... my father longed for 60 years to return here but never could," the Cuban leader said in a brief ceremony at Puebla San Julian where he was named an adoptive son.

His host, Manuel Fraga, the head of Galicia's regional government, reminded Dr Castro of the traditional Galician virtues of private property. "We are a hard-working society, defenders of our property, however small it may be. We have never trusted the utopian promises of governments... and we know the difference between what is public and private," Señor Fraga said.

Dr Castro, vowing to continue Cuba's struggle against a 30-year-old economic blockade by the United States, said: "We are up against the most powerful force on this earth that wants to suffocate us. But we will conduct ourselves as worthy sons of Galicians. You will never be ashamed of us."

President Castro was greeted in San Julian by about 100 curious residents and fervent Galician socialist chanting anti-American slogans. Later, he visited the tiny hamlet of Lancara, situated amid rolling hills 90 miles east of the Galician capital of Santiago de Compostela, where the stone and slate cottage where his father was born still stands.

Dr Castro spent five minutes in the one-room house, maintained by the villagers, before walking briefly through the village which was decked out with Castro posters. (Reuters)

My life is not my own

Philip Howard on drama that cashes in on reality

We bring nothing into this world, and it is certain we carry nothing out. But while we are here, at least we own our own lives. We may not control them very satisfactorily. We may have little else in the way of talents or looks or worldly goods, but in democracies, for what it is worth, for most of us our lives belong to us and to nobody else. Or do they?

John McCarthy, the hostage who was kidnapped by Islamic fanatics, is protesting bitterly but ineffectually about the drama-documentary that Granada is making about his ordeal. *Hostages*, to be broadcast this September, purports to be the true-to-life account of "how the hostages themselves found the means and endurance to survive appalling deprivation and hardship". It compresses the years of incarceration into two hours, but then that is docudrama. This is the latest instance of our modern obsession with celebrity, and our passion for "true-to-life" facts. Docudramas, mini-series and the mongrel literary genre named "faction" now issue their versions of history while the participants are still alive and in a position to criticise. We have had a TV version of the ousting of Mrs Thatcher, with more poetry than the provisional truth achieved by the political correspondents. Already the Charles and Di story is being pored over in Hollywood. The myth-makers have recycled the lives of Marilyn Monroe and John Kennedy so often and so imaginatively in print and on celluloid that they are now described as "legendary". Their mythical images bear a little relation to the real lives as the "real" King Arthur, the shaggy Celtic tribal warlord (if he ever existed), bears to the romantic fictions of Malory, Tennyson, Mark Twain and Camelot.

I ever you read or see a fiction about somebody of whom you have personal experience, it is always wrong. The recent television series *Selling Hitler* was funny for those of us who were present for the great scam of the Hitler diaries. Some of the quotations, even from occasions when there were only two people present in the room, were surprisingly accurate. But the characters were often ludicrously wrong. There was more to Charles Douglas-Home than stiff-upper-lipped, loose-lower-jawed, inarticulate English upper-class twit. He was a cunning Border intellectual reiver.

When David Putnam was making *Chariots of Fire*, the family of Harold Abrahams complained bitterly and tried to bring a legal action to prevent their Uncle Harold being shown suffering from anti-Semitism up at Cambridge, and running fast to revenge himself on the gentiles. He was an easy-going, gregarious guy who had the time of his life at Cambridge, they say. Similarly Eric Liddell's family objected, to no avail, to the screen portrayal of Liddell as a pious Scottish God-botherer who refused to run on the Sabbath. He had no objection to Sunday running, they say. But on screen and stage, fiction beats truth every time.

This is telling a story, which is not the same genre as telling the truth. John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation* at the Royal Court is based upon a real event, in which a young black woman insinuated herself into the household of Fifth Avenue liberals by pretending to be the son of Sidney Poitier. The real common is now suing, for the protection of his life, or copyright in his own life.

Go Vidal said: "It is the spirit of the age to believe that any fact, no matter how suspect, is superior to any imaginative exercise, no matter how true." So for our hyper-credulous generation, which believes that the characters in *The Archers* and *EastEnders* are real, there are different levels of truth. The ultimate truth is told only by the recording angel, and he is not publishing. Below that come biographies, after the storm of life has gone, and when the documents are published. Below that comes the *DNB*, painstakingly researched for a pittance. Below that comes *The Times* obituary, done on the edge of the grave, with feelings still raw and facts still hidden. And a zillion miles below that comes this dodgy new business of fiction, mythopoeic power without responsibility.

Sensible viewers and readers recognise that this business is entertainment, not truth. But not many are that sensible. So, what else is new? Helen was hideously traduced by Homer.

Yesterday's white paper needs to restore confidence in education's true values, writes Bryan Appleyard

Losing faith in learning

Education is the laboratory in which liberal democracy is tested to destruction. The classroom is the front line of the culture. If there is to be continuity, it is here that it will be established; if there is not, it is here that it will be abolished.

The culture of the Enlightenment — our culture — has proved self-destructive. It has developed conceptions of radical tolerance and liberty which have questioned and undermined the process of its own transmission. Now we habitually ask: what culture? And the idea has entered our heads that true liberalism might require us not to teach at all, but rather to glorify attractive childish ignorance as superior to all the wisdom of history and experience.

John Patten's white paper, published yesterday, is the latest in a short history of Tory attempts to confront the corrosive impotence of liberalism in education. It is not a distinguished history. The blackest mark on Margaret Thatcher's record is her failure to understand and reform education. In 1979, it should have been her highest priority. In the event, her government did not start to

confront the problem until it found itself in the midst of the charged and over-politicised atmosphere of the teachers' disputes in 1984 and 1986.

It is difficult to find precise explanations for this failure. I have heard at least a dozen. Perhaps there was a carelessness in the Tory cabinet about schools to which ministers' own children were not likely to be sent. Perhaps the foggy confusions of the educational establishment were just too tedious and complex to confront. Perhaps the clear link between the classroom and the moribund condition of British society in the 1970s was simply not understood. Whatever the cause, the radicalism of the New Tories has been dangerously slow off the mark, and the wasted years may still come back to haunt them.

The issue now is about John Major's nerve and his preparedness for a long, risky and almost certainly costly process of reform. The worry is that he is the least well-educated prime

minister in British history, and that he has embraced woolly ideals of classlessness which may conflict with the rigour demanded by educational reform. The best hope is that a clear and slightly peevish streak of authoritarianism in the man may turn out to be just what is required.

But he must understand the nature and urgency of the problem. This begins with the self-destructive turn of liberal Enlightenment thought in this century. The logic of this is impeccable. The democratic movement of the centre of moral authority away from the church and the state has demanded of the individual that he create his own standards. A liberal — and therefore morally neutral — government only guarantees the freedom to do so. For centuries this was a superbly effective device, but only because it was so far from being complete. Despite its theoretically liberal ideology, society persisted with old, illiberal hierarchies of authority.

Completion of the process was what the 20th century began to contemplate. There are hundreds of examples of this simple intellectual development, ranging from Bertrand Russell to Jacques Derrida. All were based upon the deciphering of the implications of man freed from all external moral authority and from all internal epistemological certainty. It was a frequently thrilling intellectual adventure and it made perfect sense, but it had practical consequences.

In education, the consequences were distilled and concentrated. If man is so free and so uncertain, what is there to teach and how can we teach it? Part of the answer was to re-define teaching. Instead of the culture being positively transmitted as an essential code, it was laid before children as one code among many from which they were free to choose. Another part of the answer was to abolish old hierarchies of achievement, to throw together children of various degrees of ability, so that

a unity, now lacking in the syllabus, could be artificially imposed by social engineering. Unity was to be found not in continuity but in freedom.

The real charm of these ideas is not their cool, academic logic, but their distinct sentimental appeal. The anti-authoritarian glorification of the child, fundamental to the romanticism of Wordsworth and Rousseau, was to be institutionalised in the free expression of the neighbourhood comprehensive.

The dangers are all too obvious now. Too much freedom, too much child-centredness, meant that children were free to leave school without the basic tools necessary to survive in society. A complete absence of authoritative values left no reason for preferring Shakespeare to *Neighbours*, or for not smashing up the council estate.

In the 1980s, writers such as Correll Barnett in Britain and Allan Bloom in America persuasively defined the problem and the damage that had been done.

Bloom in particular saw that transmission of the culture is the rock upon which liberal democracy might founder. He understood that if true liberty is to survive, it requires at its heart an illiberal, even undemocratic commitment. It requires the simple insistence that, however arbitrary these cultural codes and conventions may be shown to be, they are the only codes and conventions by which we can live or die.

The Tories are only now beginning to grasp the political implications of this necessary insight. And only now are they beginning to grasp the scale of the task of confronting an educational establishment whose primary convictions are demonstrably dangerous and a body of teachers whose morale has been sapped by conflicting signals from above. In the end, John Major and John Patten will be judged by their ability to defend the illiberal insistence that this is what and how we must teach, because this is what we are and how we were made. All of which leads to the biggest and most frightening question of all: has the nature of modern politics made any such absolute commitment impossible?

Europe's phoney warlords

Forget France's grandiose plans, Nato remains the West's best defence, says Michael Howard

It looks as if the pessimists are being proved right. With the evaporation of the threat that called it into existence Nato is falling apart, and the rift between Anglo-Saxon Atlanticists and European Continentalists grows steadily wider.

In the latest defence white paper, little more than lip-service is paid to Nato. The British government has returned to an old order of priorities. First on the list come nuclear and air forces for protection of our own space and projection of power to defend overseas commitments. Allies are secondary. This means heavy expenditure on high-tech items at the expense of those ground forces which, more than anything else, have always provided both credibility with our continental allies and the necessary muscle both for peacekeeping and for peacekeeping.

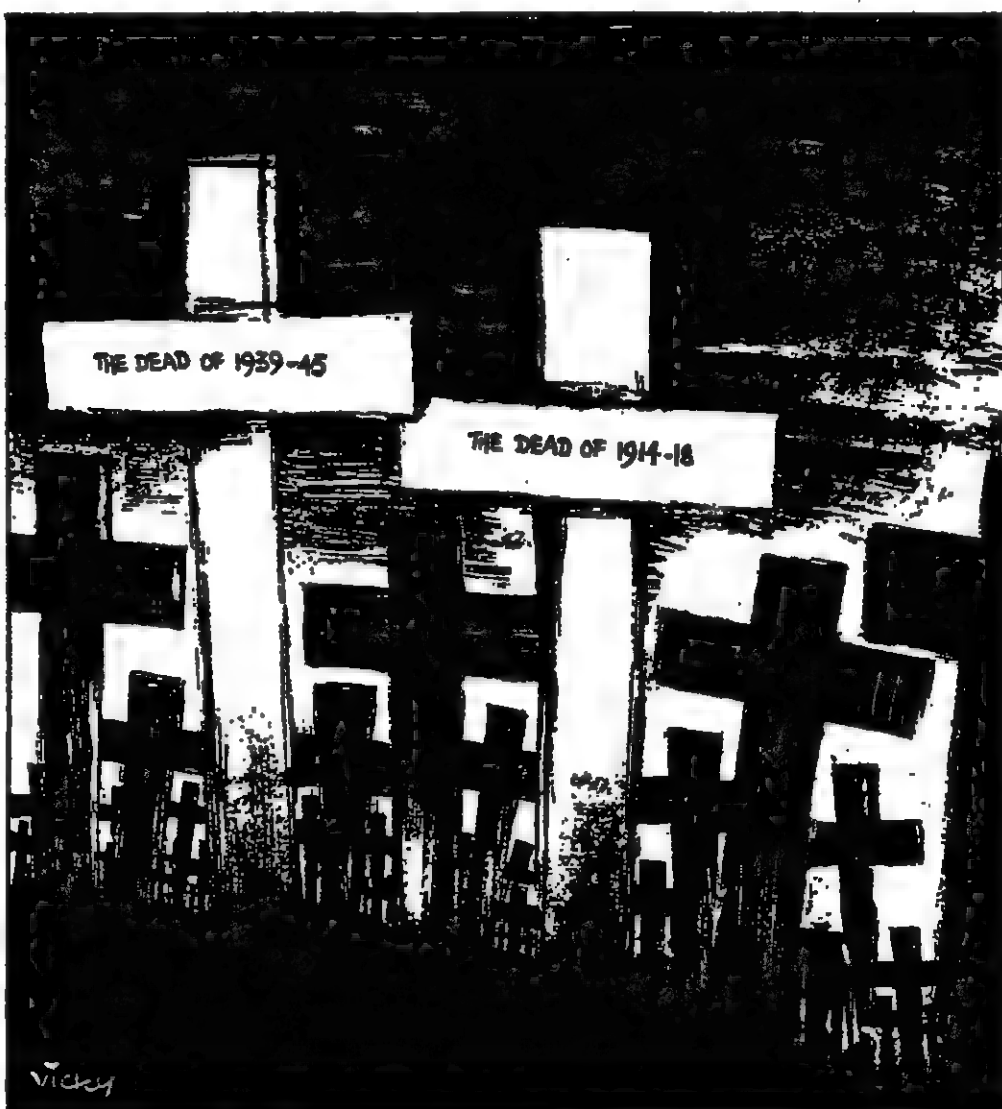
Meanwhile the French press on with their plans for a free-standing European security community free of American influence, with a Franco-German special relationship at its core. The Germans go along with the French, anxious to show themselves good Europeans and no longer needing American protection against an enemy to the East. The Germans will increasingly seek opportunities to link their old allies with their new friends in Central and Eastern Europe. Understandably, they see little purpose in pouring money into a fighter aeroplane to defend themselves against an adversary who no longer exists, and which the British can justify only in terms of overseas threats which for Germans have little historic resonance.

The smaller allies, with the

possible exception of the Dutch, are likely to be attracted increasingly to the Atlantic pole of the alliance. There will be little to keep the Americans in Europe except inertia.

Does this matter? In terms of Nato's original objectives, probably not. Whatever disagreeable things may happen in the former Soviet Union, the revival of a serious military threat to the West is the remotest of possibilities for at least a generation, and by then the Russians may have their hands full on their southern and perhaps their eastern borders as well. Like the British monarchy, Nato appears an absurd and expensive anomaly — until, that is, one considers the alternatives.

The French alternative is, like all things French, clear and logical: a free-standing European defence community as an intrinsic dimension of the European Community, a dimension indeed without which European union would lack credibility as a political entity. To provide a framework for this defence structure, the old Western European Union (WEU) has been exhumed, dusted down and provided with a formidable secretariat. The Atlanticists grudgingly accept it as the European pillar of the alliance — something which the Americans have been demanding ever since the days of John F. Kennedy. But the French see it as not so much a pillar as a replacement. The Franco-German corps, extension of the original experimental brigade, is a test-bed of the intimate European co-operation which they aspire to. No doubt other such institutions will follow. Nato is to be phased out, and a European defence community is to be phased in as



'Hands up all those in favour of rearmaged Germany': Vicky's fears at the height of the Cold War

part of a new strong, centralised Western Europe which will play its full part in enhancing global stability. So far as the French are concerned, the sooner the Americans go home, the better.

There are two problems with this. First, as recent events have made clear, not everyone wants a new, strong, centralised Western Europe, and those who are sceptical about it as a political aspiration will have still stronger

doubts about it as a military objective. The second is that no one in Europe will be willing to pay for it. The Franco-German corps is purely cosmetic. It would be totally unviable outside a Nato framework with America providing the lion's share of logistics, communications and, above all, intelligence. Who would pick up the bill? Certainly not Herr Volker Röhre, and other German leaders would

probably be even less enthusiastic. It is doubtful whether even the French have costed their military ambitions.

Further, what would such a European defence community actually do? We already have a multiplicity of security entities that would have driven William of Ockham out of his mind. In order of magnitude, if not of effectiveness, they include the United Nations, the Conference

on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), Nato, the EC and WEU. The co-ordination of their activities — not to mention those of G7 — must be a bureaucratic nightmare. The drawbacks of this multiplicity have been made clear by the tragedy of Yugoslavia, where each of these organisations has hung back, on the assumption that it should be dealt with by one of the others.

So if we were to apply Ockham's razor, what would be left? Over all there remains the United Nations, whose writ runs as much in Europe as throughout the rest of the world, and to which Nato is formally subordinate. It should be the function of the Security Council when necessary to authorise military action in Europe or by Europeans.

Secondly Nato, which should remain the framework within which the armed forces of the West learn to co-operate in peacetime (and, so far as possible, to harmonise their forces), while keeping open lines of communication with their neighbours in the East through the North Atlantic Co-operation Council. CSCE has value, but as a purely consultative body. But where does WEU fit in? It certainly might provide a mechanism for European action in cases when America preferred to remain uninvolved. But if the Yugoslav war is not enough to galvanise the Europeans into action, what on earth would? And what activities could the WEU undertake without substantial Nato underpinning?

So, like the monarchy, Nato is anachronistic but indispensable. Its disappearance would contribute substantially to the new world disorder. It is a pity that the government did not take the opportunity in the defence white paper to express more strongly its wholehearted support for it.

Sir Michael Howard is professor of military and naval history at Yale.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

I don't know what to do with my hands. It has taken me quite some time, indeed, to allow them to risk typing this, and it will take me even longer to type it, because I am permitting my hands to address the keyboard only very cautiously. Furthermore, I am typing with just my forefingers, which I have not done in many a year, because that way, if any harm should come to my digits, it will come to no more than two of them: recklessly send in eight unprotected fingers and a couple of equally vulnerable thumbs against a battery of adamantium sharp-edged keys, and the losses could be incalculable.

Such risks, mind, are trifling compared with the myriad hazards with which my entire workplace suddenly teems: a hastily tugged drawer, a carelessly dialled phone, an ill-judged shy at prising off the lid of my paper-clip tin, any of these could chip a fingernail beyond recognition, while the thought of what the hastily slammed drawer might do to stiffen the neck-hairs: we called it a black man's pinch in the days before the new propriety forced upon it the nickname of nail-bed haematomata, and often, after a really major slam, the nail would drop off altogether. Tonight, that memory may murder sleep.

Whereas yesterday, I should not only have used my thumb-nail to tighten the grub-screw on my wonky Anglepoise without a moment's hesitation, but also, had the creative chips been down, actually gnawed for in-

spiration at any of the ten. I could do things like that, before I went to Headmasters.

You will not need to be told what Headmasters is. You get about a bit, you have seen places called Hair We Are, and Scissors Palace, and Fringe Benefits, you may even have dreamt of opening a witty salon of your own, specialising perhaps in forelocks and little moustaches, and calling it Hair Hiders, so when a new barbershop opens in Cricklewood, you know that it will be christened not the New Barber-shop in Cricklewood, but Headmasters. It is where I went this morning, just for a trim, and since it turned out to be a far swifter establishment than the village had hitherto boasted, it is where I stayed for a number of other services, including a shampoo, a blow dry, a friction rub and, for a finale, the worst thing that has ever happened to me in forty years of monthly enquiry as to whether I have had my holiday yet.

But when they offered it, how could I resist? You know me, a push-over for any celluloid scenario into which fantasy can slot me. Call it the higher karaoke: someone offers a backdrop and a supporting cast, and I immediately step in as juvenile lead. It was not that I wanted to be a man having a manicure, a Brooklyn *capo di tutti capi* with his beefy hands thrust out from beneath the cloth while a do-eyed lovely bent over his knuckles, kneading and whitening and buffing and cooing, and a

toothpicking minder in two-tone shoes leaned against the door-jamb on the beady *qui vive* for a side-winding Pontiac and a stuttering Thompson.

Well, Headmasters couldn't do the torpedo, but they could do the girl. I had never had a manicure before, I didn't even speak the language, I was the one who chose crescent over spade, and after she had sculpted them into a uniform edition, she bevelled their edges and pared their cuticles and trimmed their side-skin, before lowering them into various basins, drying them in her lap, and topping out with a vernissage which left them twinkling back sunlight like a row of tiny ceremonial sabres.

The bill came to £26. I withdrew my wallet with two fingertips, laid down three tenners, left a larger tip than planned because the four coins looked dirty, they might stain a finger, thanked God that someone helped me into my jacket and opened the door for me, stood looking at my car thinking: I am going to have to get the keys out of a tuft-filled pocket, tug the door-handle, release the brake, select a gear, steer. I got home, shut the garage door with my elbow, somehow negotiated myself through a Yale and a Chubb, how do I fill my pen, smoke, put a new cartridge in my copier?

I keep buffing my nails. I can see my face in them. It appears to have aged. In truth, all of me seems suddenly worn, except for these ten little neat bits.

Second string may be pulled

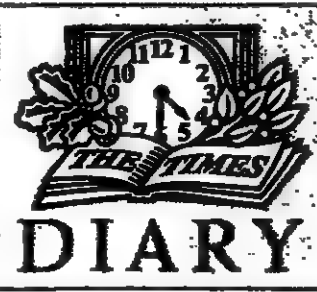
EVEN before the redoubtable Christiane Scrivener has a chance to enjoy her triumph in concluding the long-running deal on the harmonisation of European value-added tax which is so exercising Britain's anti-federalists, she could be looking for a new job. President Mitterrand is considering whether or not to replace Scrivener, who is France's second-string commissioner.

A decision on her fate is expected in the next few weeks. She is one of only two female commissioners. The other, Vasso Papan-dreu, one of the architects of the social charter, has already been recalled by Greece, and Scrivener's departure would leave the Commission without senior female representation.

Scrivener was appointed to the commission in January 1989 by President Mitterrand, and is the first holder of the specially created tax portfolio. Mitterrand, like John Major, abides by the tradition that the second commissioner should come from the opposition. While there has been no row between the two, Mitterrand has let it be known that her position is under review. One well-placed commission employee says: "Scrivener wants to stay. But she is only borderline. The value-added tax deal could be her triumphant swansong."

Should she depart, there will be no shortage of job offers. Scrivener has a degree in psychology and a Harvard MBA. She has already written one book, *Europe: A Battle for the Future*, and is best known in France for the law on consumer credit which bears her name.

A Euro MP for 10 years, Scrivener is renowned for her im-



maculate appearance. Last year she judged the "Woman of Europe" contest, with her friend Simone Veil, a former president of the European Parliament. What- ever Mitterrand decides about her job, she may find herself a nominee for Europe's woman of the year next time round, after her taxation victory.

● Congratulations are due to Ayrshire and Arran health authority for its decision to distribute free condoms and leaflets about AIDS prevention at Glasgow airport. Doubtless this largesse was appreciated by the first passengers to benefit: a charter flight to Lourdes carrying an assortment of priests and nuns.

Try Speakers' Corner

TORY TROOPS who helped to win the general election were delighted to see their old friend the soapbox make an appearance on Monday at a thank-you party thrown by John Major in Downing Street. Party workers (including Mary Bartholomew, the short-lived head of the party's press office who flew in for the occasion from Singapore) cheered, along with Norma Major and Sir Norman Fowler, as the soapbox was dusted down.

vied for photographs of their leader speaking from his favourite platform in the Downing Street garden. The box, however, was a fake. The original soapbox is now locked in a Downing Street basement. Contrary to some reports suggesting it would be auctioned for charity, it will not be seen again until the next election campaign.

● Sound advice to kilt wearers as the Glorious Twelfth approaches: beware of the tick, whose natural habitat is the heather, woodland and warmer regions of the human anatomy. According to medical experts in the latest edition of *Harpers & Queen*, the little insects are carriers for *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the agent which causes Lyme

I'd like to know what makes the Scots tick



disease. "Scotsmen today are unaware of the health risks of leaving entry points to the body unguarded," says the magazine. It is a problem of which the true Scot is well aware.

Out of Africa

JOHN GOLLEY, the military historian and former second world war Hurricane pilot, is in a state of excitement over the discovery of

a thousand photographs from the Boer war.

The prints, which are in excellent condition, are accompanied by their negatives, which have been lovingly stored in little oval tins. The pictures were taken by Lieutenant Malcolm Riall, a signalman who fought in the war. The archive includes eighty war-time letters from Riall to his family in England and thousands of his signals. Until recently they were kept by one of his relatives in a bank vault.

"It really is the most remarkable collection of material," says Golley. "People sometimes have three or four photographs dating from the war, but a thousand, plus the negatives, is incredible." Golley believes the material would be the ideal basis for a television documentary on the war. He is also keen to publish them in book form. The collection meantime is destined to go to the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives at King's College, London.

Comic-book PC

MOVE OVER, Batman. The hottest hero in America is the Original Man, a comic-book creation who fights racism, AIDS and drug abuse, and promotes black pride. *The Original Man*, created by Anthony Jappa and Alonzo Washington, is being billed as America's first black comic-book hero, and the 2,000 copies of the initial instalment, in which our hero takes on the Aryan Avenger in an epic battle, have sold out.

Jappa and Washington, both from Kansas, were fed up with the portrayal of blacks in comic books as thugs and drug-addicts, but even they were surprised by the enthusiastic reception for their creation. In the next issue, the Original Man heads to downtown Los Angeles, scene of the riots.



STATE SIR KNOWS BEST

The government, dismayed at Britain's poor education record, has responded as governments always respond. It has blamed everybody but itself, and decided to nationalise the schools.

John Patten's white paper entrenches the already centralised curriculum. But that is not its prime purpose. This is eventually to remove schools from local authority control and bring them under what is to be a powerful new central funding agency. The white paper envisages that all 25,000 secondary and primary schools in England and Wales may one day come under this agency, as local education authorities wither.

This is one of the most dramatic extensions of Whitehall power seen since the war. This is no free market in education. The white paper is filled with new powers to be conferred on the funding agency and other quangos, whose officials will fill office blocks the length and breadth of the land. Schools funded locally are to come within the scope of Whitehall's new schools planners as soon as 10 per cent of places locally are "opted out" of local council control. Local schools will be taken over by the state when the proportion rises to 75 per cent. This is a devastating vote of no confidence in local democracy.

The need for centralisation is a mystery. The government's own local management of schools (LMS) initiative was already cutting bureaucracy and giving schools the autonomy that most parents and teachers want in order to save money and raise standards. This could be extended. But the bonds that tie schools to their communities through local democracy — bonds nowhere mentioned in the white paper — are long-standing and the source of great pride. It is extraordinary that a Conservative government should have such contempt for them and such faith in the rectitude of Whitehall planning. Nationalisation will make schools more not less uniform, as it has done prisons and hospitals. The powers Mr Patten is talking to himself are gargantuan.

The government has not thought through its search for "diversity, parental choice, specialism and standards" in the resulting school system. The pattern most likely to emerge is roughly comparable to that obtaining under the 1944 Act, prior to the 1965 comprehensive reorganisation. This means finding some way of deciding a child's educational future at about the age of

11 — long regarded as too early. After 1944 an attempt was made to make the "choice" of school at 11 as fair as possible, by testing aptitude objectively and allocating children to different types of school, each enjoying "parity of esteem". Parents and children not selected for their chosen (usually grammar) school were thus supposed not to feel rejected. Never was elitist supposition so false.

Popular schools are those that get good academic results. They get good results by being academically selective, not by admitting any children whose parents ask. This cannot be dodged by wallowing in Mr Patten's ceaseless platitudes. He would have done better to recall the ambitions of the 1944 Act, explain his belief in selection, and explain his plans for the "reject" sector. This sector may be smaller than before comprehensive reorganisation, but that will make the deprivation the greater, for parents, teachers and pupils alike. Mr Patten is not even offering those rejected the advantage of a "loaded voucher", so that what are already being known as sink schools can at least have extra money. He is merely pretending that every school will have "equality of esteem" and that nobody should feel rejected. Bad schools will see instant nationalisation under an "education association" appointed by Mr Patten himself.

Such is the panglossian tone of the white paper that it ignores the clear danger of an educational underclass now emerging: of disappointed parents, rejected children and blighted schools. The white paper appears to believe that a "high quality common ground" through the national curriculum is enough to ensure institutional equality. That fallacy was exposed in the 1950s. There is no parity between success and failure at 11, only the hope that sensitive local planning can keep poorer schools up to the mark, postpone irrevocable decisions and guide parents and children through the maze. All this is now to pass to Whitehall.

There is a powerful case for further educational reform, not least in local school planning. But it cannot be right to go back to 1944, least of all on the basis of doubletalk about the contradictory concepts of parental choice and aptitude selection. British schools need time to recover from the inanities of the 1970s, not another blow of change — and certainly not a blow from the discredited sledgehammer of nationalisation.

EURO VATMAN COMETH

So was Norman Lamont's deal on a new European minimum VAT rate a triumph or a disaster? Or was it, like so many deals of the government's new "tough but tender" Eurostance, a triumph of disaster limitation?

The answer this time appears to be the latter. Mr Lamont can say with some justice that VAT harmonisation is no more than the carrying out of the logic of the Single European Act. In other words it falls within the disciplined free trade category of sovereignty transfer, rather than the bureaucratic centralisation category. There is at least a case for having a common VAT rate across Europe to enable the removal of remaining customs controls within Europe by the end of this year. The existing European treaties require this. VAT is unlikely to fall below the 15 per cent floor, and expenditure taxes are likely to rise.

Mr Lamont has also defended differential duties where national policies demand exception. This applies both to existing zero-rated items, which will continue, and to various British products, such as Scotch whisky, that remain subject to tax discrimination between countries. No British tax rates or duties will have to increase. To make the sovereignty transfer less obviously a capitulation, Mr Lamont also agreed a four-year limit to the new deal, whereupon it will be subject to renewal and possible veto. In the vexed chronicle of European politics, this is no great new monster, and the Eurosceptics would do well to keep their powder dry.

That said, Mr Lamont would also do well to restrain his enthusiasm. To have a Tory chancellor returning from Brussels and

boasting that he has agreed to let Europe's most profligate political culture set a minimum for any British tax is hardly a moment for joy. There is a practical case for VAT harmonisation, but not an overwhelming one. The USA has long operated the world's most vigorous free market on a basis of tax fluidity, and thus price differences, across state boundaries. Harmonisation is not a necessity, but rather an occupational disease of ministers and civil servants in both Brussels and London. While Mr Lamont is agreeing uniform "value added" taxes, his cabinet colleagues are imposing property taxes more uniform than even the wildest dreams of Brussels.

The VAT deal may not be the end of parliamentary democracy, but nor is it the end of harmonisation. What rightly worries those sceptical of the government's growing appeasement of federalism is the triumphalist language that explains each concession. Mr Lamont, like his prime minister, was once a fierce critic of transferring taxing powers to Brussels and of such absurdities — far less defensible than the VAT deal — as last month's 48-hour working week directive. Both are now considered "triumphs". On the assumption that the cabinet has not undergone a screaming U-turn, Micawberism appears to have taken over from strategy.

Micawberism must have its limit. That limit will come not now, with the unfinished business of the Single European Act. It will come with the battle over the ratification of the Maastricht treaty. Before that battle commences some far clearer indication of the government's strategy for European collaboration is desperately required.

LET THEM TRAVEL

The thinkers have been coming to town, and indeed camping in the countryside, since time immemorial. In that sense, there is nothing particularly novel about the contemporary wave of travelling hippies, except for the terror they appear capable of striking in the stoutest of rural hearts. As an island race, we have withstood all threats of external invasion since 1066. But we are now in danger of losing our heads over convoys of youngish people moving from place to place.

Of course, few can be expected to welcome the sight of a shanty town of buses, caravans, tents and cars being erected in their own backyard. But the Nimby syndrome is too emphatic. Certainly, the reaction of authority so far has been to rely on the time-honoured constabulary slogan of "Move along there, please" — as if the mere act of keeping such unwanted folk in perpetual motion would in itself solve the problem. Talk of organising indigenous "resistance movements", to see to it that none of our modern versions of travelling people ever get the chance of pitching a tent anywhere, does not say much for the amount of progress that has been made since the days of the Elizabethan Poor Law. Then, too, mendicants were driven from the bounds of one parish into the next in order to make sure that, whomever they troubled, it was not the local community.

Nevertheless the truth is that we now face, in the shape of the New Age pilgrims (not forgetting the ravers intent simply on having a good time), a different phenomenon from that represented by the old wandering poor. Today those who travel are hardly vagrants

in the formal sense at all. They make this their way of life, at least in the summer months, largely out of choice. Moving around the countryside may be their means of making their protest against the structured nature of modern society, but most of them are still sufficiently plugged into the system to make sure that they receive their weekly social security payments.

It is understandable that cries should go up from ordered local communities for altogether tougher measures to be taken by the police. But what is it that is being suggested? That the police — by resort to road blocks and the rest — should, in effect, remove the right to freedom of movement in what is supposed to be a free country? The precedent of what happened over the miners' strike of 1984-5 is hardly a happy one.

The presence of even 20,000 people seeking to enjoy themselves, if often in an inconsiderate way, can scarcely be thought to justify such draconian measures. Of course, it is up to the police to see that the law is observed; and they should not be shy of taking a rigorous attitude towards such matters as drugs, drink or even defective vehicles. But what, under the present law, they have not got the right to do is to raze a camp to the ground, or even threaten to do so, merely because they or the local inhabitants do not like the look of it. "God gave the land to the people", Lloyd George used to sing. It would be an odd irony if, in Wales of all places, that doctrine were now to be repudiated on the pretext that the wrong people are presuming to enjoy it.

Differing views on latest proposal to legalise cannabis

From Professor Griffith Edwards

Sir, The signatories to the advertisement (July 24) favouring the legalisation of cannabis have been selective and partial in their use of the evidence they adduce to support their claim that "there is still no conclusive evidence that it (cannabis) causes any significant harm".

For instance they seriously misrepresent the tenor of a 1987 report by a committee (which I chaired) of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. They quote out of context the single statement that cannabis has "a cleaner bill of health than our legalised recreational drugs".

In reality the conclusion was that "because of health considerations and overwhelming public antipathy towards either partial or complete legalisation, it is not likely that a radical change in the law will be politically acceptable in the foreseeable future".

The report stated in terms that there was "persuasive evidence that at certain levels of exposure cannabis can be harmful to the individual".

It is sad to see those who champion legalisation using science selectively, as have others in the past in order to bolster their opposite contention that cannabis inevitably leads to degradation, crime, and heroin.

As the college report put it: "Respect must be given to the right of others to hold their views but it is also fair to ask that in doing so they should cease misrepresenting the health evidence on either side."

Yours etc,
GRIFFITH EDWARDS,
National Addiction Centre,
Addiction Sciences Building,
4 Windsor Walk, SE5,
July 24.

From the Reverend Kenneth Leech

Sir, Tim Rathbone MP (letter, July 24) shows that it is not necessary to have taken cannabis to be extremely confused. Over a year before the 1967 advertisement, I argued that the case for legalising cannabis was "strong if not overwhelming" (report, March 8, 1966). Since then there has been little progress. Indeed one of the problems of the past 30 years and more is that politicians continue to produce the same arguments as if no debate had taken place. And in one sense this is true, for politicians have rarely listened to the evidence.

The central question is whether the laws relating to cannabis are less or more harmful than the drug itself. And here the evidence seems to be overwhelming. Among the major dangers of the law on cannabis are imprisonment, introduction to the criminal subcultures, police corruption, and so on.

For thousands of years, cannabis was freely available. It appears in Culpepper's Herbal, and in the 19th century was promoted by Dr Russell Reynolds, physician-in-ordinary to Queen Victoria. It is likely that Queen Victoria took cannabis as a treatment for nervous conditions. As late as 1950 it was held to be the drug of choice for mild depressive states. There is some evidence today that it has medicinal value.

The "legalisation" of heroin and cocaine from the 1890s to 1968 did keep criminal syndicates off the market. Since then the situation has become chaotic. The lessons of the USA are clear for all to see; yet Britain continues to follow US policy in this and other areas where American policies have most conspicuously failed.

Mr Rathbone assures us that "government actions and political leadership can tackle the awful problems of drug misuse". On the evidence of the past 30 years, this clearly is not the case.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH LEECH,
St Botolph's Crypt Centre,
Aldgate, EC3.

From Dr Henry Matthew

Sir, I was a member of the Home Office advisory committee on drug dependence which approved the Wootton committee report in 1969. I and two other members of the main body had considered submitting a minority report indicating that the use of cannabis be legalised there and then. However, we were persuaded to adhere to the majority as it appeared totally impossible that the government would take such action as we advocated. Time has not altered my opinion.

In your leader (July 24) you state that Ecstasy is "a mild (technically illegal) stimulant". You then appear to equate its use and harmlessness to that of cannabis. To do so is dangerous and irresponsible. The authorities have placed Ecstasy in Class A, the same category as heroin and cocaine, thus indicating the level of danger.

The harmlessness of cannabis — no deaths, no addiction and no proven lasting effects on the brain, etc. — is in marked contrast to Ecstasy, which can and does kill, produces intractable paranoid psychoses and to which tolerance is built up.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY MATTHEW,
29 Hamilton Drive, Elgin, Moray.

Holiday safeguards

From Mr Simon Allen

Sir, The collapse of Land Travel (reports, July 25, 27) highlights a major flaw in the government's forthcoming implementation of the EC directive on package travel. To comply with the directive, each EC member state must have legislation in force by January 1, 1993, to protect consumers of package holidays.

Amongst many other welcome measures the directive requires tour operators to provide for compensation, in the event of financial failure, to clients who have made advance payments.

The Department of Trade and Industry, which is responsible for the regulations, has so far resisted the trade's calls for an enforcement body, although it has just grudgingly agreed to the principle of voluntary licensing.

Water resources

From the Secretary of the Water Services Association

Sir, You report (July 27) the National Rivers Authority's environmental manager of Anglia's eastern area as saying "we have no obligation of an economic or social kind. We are the guardians of the water environment".

This is not so. As well as being the statutory water guardian in controlling pollution, the NRA has a number of other statutory duties, including a duty to conserve, redistribute or otherwise augment water resources in England and Wales.

The NRA has tended to discharge this duty by negative impositions on water companies and other river

users instead of taking positive action itself to augment water resources.

As senior NRA managers seem to be equivocal about their obligations, the Secretary of State for the Environment should put the matter beyond doubt in the legislation planned for the next session of Parliament.

The proposed new environment agency should have clear water-resource obligations as well as an economic obligation to assess the cost-benefit of any proposals it makes for environmental improvement.

Yours faithfully,
M. CARNEY,
Secretary, The Water Services Association of England and Wales,
1 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

County history

From Councillor David Lloyd

Sir, As a member of Shropshire County Council leisure services committee, I went through the painful process earlier this year of having to make savage cuts in our budget, in order to meet targets set by government. These cuts included the reduction of our valued Victoria County History staff from three members to two ("... and moreover", July 11).

These cuts were made with the

greatest reluctance and only because we had to make them to avoid "capping". I hope the ministers responsible will have read Philip Howard's excellent article and will adjust their policies accordingly. Market forces and material values should indeed not be the only ones to prevail in contemporary society.

Yours sadly, with best wishes,
DAVID LLOYD,
36 Julian Road,
Ludlow, Shropshire,
July 21.

Fruit machine law

From Mr Barry Field, MP for Isle of Wight (Conservative)

Sir, In its latest call for a change in the law to ban youngsters aged under 18 from using fruit machines (report, July 17) the Amusement Arcade Action Group has put forward an over-simplified view of the amusement machine industry.

Arcades and amusement centres belonging to Baccia (British Amusement Catering Trades Association) are required to comply with a code of practice which restricts the admission of children. No one aged under 16 is knowingly allowed into an inland amusement centre; some companies specify 18 or even 21.

These centres have been designed to offer adults the opportunity to win small cash prizes on machines of chance. The maximum cash prize is only £2.40, a sum set by the government.

For amusement arcades at the seaside, which are a traditional part of family resort holidays in Britain, the Baccia code prevents local school children using them during school hours. These arcades generally provide a wide variety of novelty games and other activities, with fruit machines forming just a small part of their facilities.

Under the law, many of these

seaside games, including fruit machines, are classified as AWP — amusements with prizes — and an apparently simple ban on fruit machines would almost certainly stop children using a whole range of other games, too, even though they do not offer cash prizes.

It is true that the UK is the only country in Europe which allows youngsters to play on gaming machines, but the European games are played for much larger jackpots and no one would argue that children should be given unrestricted access to them.

Local authorities already have powers to control amusement arcades and amusement machines depending on local need and demand. The 1968 Gaming Act specifically provides them with a free hand to refuse a permit.

Some local authorities base their decision to refuse either planning permission or a gaming certificate on nothing other than hearsay or misinformation. When challenged, they lose and demand a change in the law.

Before we agree to that, they should use properly their existing powers.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY FIELD,
House of Commons,
July 21.

Why more judges are needed

From the Lord Chief Justice

Sir, Your leader, "Judges galore" (July 25), shows a surprising ignorance of the facts and issues concerning the need for more judges. It concentrates solely on civil litigation and its thesis seems to be that delays and high costs should be encouraged so as to deter would-be English litigants from imitating their trigger-happy American counterparts.

This suggestion is as irrelevant as it is bizarre. In fact, I do not seek the appointment of more judges "for the straightforward reason that waiting lists for civil actions in the High Court are long and growing longer". They are not. The waiting list of civil actions has been greatly reduced in recent months, although largely by the use of deputies rather than judges.

The crying need is for more judges to deal with the growing list of criminal appeals, with the judicial review list and with serious criminal trials countrywide. This is the need of which I spoke last week (report, July 25).

It is intolerable that cases involving the liberty of the subject, and cases upon whose outcome administrative and governmental action depends, should be subject to the long delays presently prevailing and growing. These cases cannot be resolved by alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

The suggestion that the request for more judges is made because ADR is "waller-friendly to the public but therefore not to the legal fraternity" is cheap, misleading and mischievous.

Yours faithfully,
TAYLOR OF GOSFORTH,
Royal Courts of Justice, WC2,
July 25.

From Mr Jack Bleiman

Sir, As a solicitor mediator with the Family Mediators Association, your strong plea for a "serious investment in alternative dispute resolution" strikes a very welcome chord.

Nevertheless, sadly, there are many litigants who insist on their "day in court". I wholeheartedly agree that "alternative dispute resolution is the coming thing". In the meantime the situation is serious, particularly in London, and Lord Taylor needs the fullest possible support in trying to obtain all the help he needs.

Yours truly,
JACK BLEIMAN,
12 Ellington Road,
Muswell Hill, N2,
July 25.

Jobless and riots

From the Bishop of Barking

Sir, You report (July 23) the European Commissioner for Social Affairs linking the recent social disturbances amongst young people with high rates of unemployment.

Archbishop William Temple, in a letter to *The Times* in 1934, said this of the unemployed: "The gravest evil and bitterest injury of their state is the spiritual grievance of being allowed no opportunity of contributing to the general life and welfare of the community."

In the 1930s this spiritual grievance did not express itself in social unrest amongst young people as unemployment was then largely confined to the adult population. But now, as you report (July 24), unemployment is rising amongst young adults in some areas to as high as 30 per cent.

I believe attitudes of young people are important indicators of the health of community life, and it is important that as a nation we address the real spiritual grievance that many of them are feeling today and expressing in social unrest.

Yours faithfully,
TROGER BARKING,
Barking Lodge,
110 Chapel Road,
Forest Gate, E7,
July 27.

Hit for six

From Mr Bowen Cory

Sir, Philip Howard ("... and moreover", July 25) takes it that the meaning of being "hit for six", indicating an unpleasant experience, has been reversed. But he sees it only from the batsman's point of view. Surely the unpleasantness is accurate as far as the bowler is concerned.

Yours faithfully,
BOWEN CORY,
37 Moorside,
Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire.

From Mr J. F. Shircliff

Sir, Philip Howard has been uncharacteristically stumped by cricket metaphors. Sticky wickets still abound below Test and county level, and to explain that captain Graham Gooch won a Test match for England largely off his own bat (Sport, July 27) is surely not a tautology.

It's not cricket "evokes an ideal of fair play which should not be considered as out of date simply because we fail to live up to it."

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SHIRCLIFF,
3 Pembroke Drive,
4050 Mönchengladbach 5,
Germany,
July 27.

OBITUARIES

BRIGADIER PETER MOORE

Brigadier Peter Neil Moore, DSO and two Bars, MC, an outstanding Royal Engineer, died on July 23 aged 81. He was born on July 13, 1911.

AS HIS three DSOs and his MC suggest, Peter Moore was a man of immense courage, a great leader and a dedicated soldier, who should have risen to three or four star rank had it not been for an unfortunate clash of personalities in the latter half of his career. A quiet, very modest man with acute battle instincts, he was less at home in jobs requiring a measure of diplomacy than in those demanding a forthright, determined leadership.

Education at Clifton College, the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1931; joined the Bombay Sappers and Miners in 1935; and saw active service in Waziristan. He left India in 1940 for Egypt as Staff Captain "Q" in the 7th Indian Brigade of 4th Indian Division and took part in the opening phases of the Eritrean campaign in early 1941.

Posted to the 2nd Armoured Division in the Western Desert, he was captured by the Germans during Rommel's first surprise offensive in April 1941. He managed to escape with the help of Bedouin tribesmen after barely four days as a prisoner of war. He won his MC during the desert operations that summer.

He had a natural aptitude for desert fighting, a flair for mine warfare, and an enthusiasm for blowing up disabled German tanks before their excellent recovery crews could use them. He commanded the 1st Field Squadron of the 1st



Armoured Division in the battles of Gazala in the summer of 1942 and was wounded just before the fall of Tobruk.

But he was back in action again with his squadron in time to play a very full part in the desperate defence of the Alamein line in July, when he

excelled in nighty forays to lay new minefields and strengthen existing ones. It became a standing joke among his men that anyone displeasing the sergeant-major would be detailed as the officer commanding the scout car driver. The poacher turned gamekeeper

in the preparation for the final battle of El Alamein. Moore was made responsible for devising the sapper drills for breaching the six successive belts of mines protecting the German positions. He did this by forming and commanding the 8th Army's highly successful minefield clearance school.

In the battle itself he commanded the 3rd Field Squadron in the 10th Armoured Division. In the midst of the armoured battles fought to break out from the minefield lanes he surprised and drove the German crew off one of the dreaded 88mm guns with his sub-machinegun and destroyed it with one of the explosive charges that he always carried in his scout car for tank destruction. He was awarded his first DSO for his services at El Alamein.

His second DSO came for his work with the Yugoslav partisan forces in Slovenia from 1943 to 1945 where he was an outstanding member of Fitzroy Maclean's mission to Marshal Tito. It was partly on his advice that the decision was taken to give all-out support to Tito and to jettison Mihailovic. He had a genius for adjusting to partisan life and won the Partisans' respect through his successful operations with them, such as the demolition of the strategically important Stampetov bridge.

His third DSO was awarded in Korea where he commanded the 28th Field Engineer Regiment in the Commonwealth Division, one squadron of which was Canadian. The flavour of his extraordinary gifts as a sapper commander comes through in the citation. "Lieutenant Colonel Moore's courage is a by-word throughout the whole division. Never once has he committed a sapper to any task until he was

personally satisfied that it was reasonable and every step taken to ensure success. Wherever there has been danger, there has been Lieutenant Colonel Moore."

The tragedy of Moore's career was his appointment as commander of the Commonwealth Brigade in Malaya in 1957. His experience with Commonwealth troops in Korea suggested that he was just the right man for the job, but two factors were to tell against him. He had to compete with the Gurkhas, whose silent movement, enormous patience and very sharp marksmanship gave them a higher success rate and fewer casualties than Moore's British, Australian and New Zealand troops, despite his relentless drive and exacting standards.

The other factor was a personality clash, which developed between himself, a "Pommy brigadier", and the commander of his Australian battalion. With a tendency to be over-demanding and uncompromising in his standards, he showed that, perhaps, he did not have the sureness of touch for higher command. Sadly, that "perhaps" was enough to halt his further promotion.

He retired from the army in 1963. By then he was married and had a growing family to educate, so he started a new career as an administrative grade civil servant in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

In 1976 he joined Reading University as a careers research officer and correspondence course tutor in maths and science subjects.

He married Rosemary Stokes in 1953, when he was 42. She and their two sons and three daughters survive him.

APPRECIATIONS

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum



MAY I be permitted to add to your perceptive obituary (July 18) of Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum. He was foremost in the difficult field of Christian-Jewish relations, and regarded by Cardinal Cassidy, president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, as "a great source of reconciliation and strength during moments of deep difficulty between our communities."

It was sometimes said that he saw more of the Pope than did his opposite numbers in the Vatican.

As a Conservative rabbi, and director of the American Jewish Committee's international relations division for many years, he followed a brave and sometimes controversial path which led to his attendance, alone among rabbis, at the Second Vatican Council which produced *Nostra Aetate*. It was an historic turning point, rejecting anti-semitism. Rabbi Tanenbaum worked tirelessly to further this new approach.

I was privileged to work with him during the crisis over the Auschwitz Convention. Rabbi Tanenbaum acted according

to his principles, but always sensibly. He rejected the idea that Cardinal Glendy should apologise for his widely-reported statement which had aroused Jewish criticism worldwide, saying: "Cardinals never apologise, not even to Catholics." They certainly won't apologise to Jews." He took a stronger line on the Oberammergau Passion Play, saying that the revisions had not gone far enough.

In 1988, as chairman, I was pleased to present Tanenbaum with the interfaith medal of the International Council of Christians and Jews.

Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Pierre Uri

I GOT to know Pierre Uri (obituary, July 24) well during the period from 1952 to 1956 when I was a member of the UK Delegation to the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in Luxembourg. This small British group, ably led by Sir Cecil Weir, and his deputy Sir James Marjoribanks, had the task of building up close relations with the High Authority, the president of the High Authority, Pierre Uri was the person we saw most.

This was the period when the remarkable experiment in international relations launched by Robert Schuman in 1950 began to take shape. Uri had much to do with the drafting of the treaty setting up the ECSC and the elaboration of an institutional structure which has survived to this day in the wider European Community.

We had many meetings with Uri and his colleagues in the imposing offices of the High Authority in the Place de Metz in Luxembourg. He had a remarkable capacity for ex-



plaining the purposes and operations of the ECSC in clear and logical terms. Often a twinkle would come to his eye and he would relieve a serious discussion with a sharp witicism.

He was much attached to Britain. With Monnet, he believed that Britain would eventually join the Community. That perhaps explains why he always took so much trouble to keep us informed of developments within the Community as it then existed.

Lord Ezra

Rosemary Sutcliff

IN THIS 350th anniversary year of the English Civil War no tribute to Rosemary Sutcliff (obituary, July 25) can be complete without mention of *The Rider of the White Horse*.

This is surely one of the finest historical novels ever written for adults, and one to re-read again and again with increasing pleasure.

Thomas Fairfax fought against his King for the highest motives, and as Lord General commanded the New Model Army at Naseby. The story is told with such conviction and skill that this surely was how Fairfax's contemporaries, among them Cromwell, saw the "high flying hawk of the North."

Mrs Anna Milford

July 29 ON THIS DAY 1878

As the troops of the Austro-Hungarian empire prepared to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina — to "restore peace and welfare" — the authorities strove to convince the inhabitants that they had nothing to fear.

THE AUSTRIAN OCCUPATION

VIENNA, JULY 28. An indubitable prelude to the near approaching occupation of Bosnia by Austria is the publication today of the following proclamation to the inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina: "Dwellers in Bosnia and Herzegovina — The troops of the Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary are about to cross the borders of your country. They do not come as enemies to take possession by violence of your lands. They come as friends to put an end to the evils which for a series of years have disquieted not only Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also the bordering territories of Austria-Hungary. With grief the Emperor and King have heard how civil war has wasted this up in conflict against each other, how order and commerce have been interrupted, your herds becoming the spoil of the robber, your fields lying untended, and misery brought home to the heart alike of town and country. Great and grave events have made it impossible for your Government permanently to restore the peace and harmony on which the welfare of a people depends. The Emperor and King could no longer look on and see violence and discontent reigning in the vicinity of his Provinces, distress and misery knocking at the frontiers of his States. He has directed the eye of the European States to your situation, and in the Council of the peoples it was unanimously resolved that Austria-Hungary

should restore the peace and welfare so long missed. His Majesty the Sultan, animated by a desire for your happiness, has found himself induced to commit you to the protection of his powerful friend, the Emperor and King. The troops of the Emperor and King will accordingly appear in your midst. They do not bring you war, but they bring you peace. They are here for the protection of everyone and for the oppression of none. The Emperor and King commands that all sons of this country enjoy equal rights in the eyes of the law, that they shall all be protected in their lives, in their faith, in their possessions and properties. Your laws and institutions shall not be arbitrarily overturned; your manners and customs shall be spared. Nothing shall be violently altered without due consideration. All temporal and spiritual authorities are expected uprightly to maintain order and support the Government. The revenues of the land shall be applied exclusively to the needs of the country. The arrears of taxes for the last years shall not be levied. The Emperor and King knows your troubles and wishes your good. Under his powerful sceptre many peoples dwell together each one speaking his own tongue. He rules over the voices of many religious and each one is free to profess his own faith. Dwellers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, commit yourselves with confidence to the protection of the renowned banners of Austria-Hungary. Receive our soldiers as friends. Obey those set over you to resume your callings, and you shall be protected in the fruits of your labours."

Meanwhile, the negotiations regarding the conditions of the occupation have not yet been formally concluded, and it appears more probable that the order for crossing the frontier will be given, irrespective of those negotiations, unless, perhaps, the long-looked-for instructions, should arrive by the courier announced for to-day...

IAN PROCTOR

Ian Proctor, dinghy designer, died at Hayling Island on July 23 aged 74. He was born on July 12, 1918.

IAN Proctor was Britain's most prolific small boat designer, and died while watching the world championship of one of his most enduring class designs, the Wayfarer. He produced more than 100 dinghy and small keel boat designs including the Topper dinghy, now 35,000 strong, and the Tempest, the two-man keelboat chosen for the 1972 and 1976 Olympic Games.

Although disabled by polio during the second world war, Proctor was also a first-rate helmsman, winning several national and world titles during an illustrious sailing career that spanned five decades. He learned to sail while attending Gresham's School, Holt, Norfolk, and bought his first boat, a sharpie, when he was 18. He later graduated to a National 12, bought by his parents as a 21st birthday present in 1939, the year he was also elected as Rear Commodore of Aldenham Sailing Club.

Proctor's first career choice was a far cry from the sailing world and it was only the war that prompted him to give up medical studies to join the RAF's air/sea rescue service. By 1944 he had command of his own rescue patrol boat but he was then struck down with polio. The disease left him with a paralysed right arm and withered chest muscles. After a lengthy recuperation, he managed a boobyard at Portsmouth for a short period after the war until being invited to co-edit *The Yachtman* magazine, a job he shared with Admiral Cotes. From there he graduated to becoming yacht correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*, a vocation he coupled for 12 years with

designing racing dinghies and developing the first tapered metal masts.

Ian Proctor's first dinghy design was a Merlin Rocket which dominated the national championship in 1952. *Sirius*, steered by the designer and crewed by Tony Norbury, won overall and a sister design, sailed by Tony Fox and John Oakley, was second. The same year, he designed the Osprey dinghy to compete in the trials for a new two-man international class.

The Flying Dutchman, which has retained its Olympic status since the Melbourne Games in 1956, was given the nod by Proctor's drinker-built Osprey won many admirers and developed into a thriving class of its own. The design was given further impetus when Proctor steered the prototype, to a memorable one second victory in the 60-mile Coronation Round-the-island (Isle of Wight) race in 1953. The design was followed in 1956 by his 15ft 6in Kestrel, the first one-design class to incorporate glass fibre construction from the outset, and the smaller Gull. Later came the Wayfarer, the Signet, launched by *The Sunday Times*, and the Jiffy, Minisail, Bosun and Topper dinghies.

Proctor was always an innovative designer. His first metal mast, produced in 1956, led to the formation of Ian Proctor Metal Masts Ltd, a company that grew to dominate spar construction worldwide during the 1960s and 1970s. His Jiffy, a small tender, was the first dinghy to be built utilising a fully-mechanised moulding system and led to the mass-produced injection-moulded polypropylene Topper, a class now 35,000 strong and his most successful design.

In recent times, Ian Proctor has been busy developing a larger family version of the Topper, utilising a much cheaper injection moulding system developed to take advantage of a new high-impact plastic used to mould car bumpers and body panels.

Proctor was voted yachtman of the year in 1965, won a Council of Industrial Design award in 1967 and Design Council awards in 1977 and 1980. He also wrote several books on sailing including *Racing Dinghy Handling* (1948), *Racing Dinghy Maintenance* (1949) and, most recently, *Sailing Strategy* (1977).

Ian Proctor is survived by his wife, Betty, and four children.



Hans Feld, film critic and historian, died in Hampstead on July 15, his 90th birthday. He was born in Berlin in 1902.

HANS Feld was a distinguished film critic and an irreplaceable human repository of the history of German silent cinema. He had, moreover, witnessed at first hand, and recalled with wonderful clarity, a significant part of twentieth century European and Jewish history.

Hans Nathan Feld was the son of a prosperous Prussian Jewish businessman. He acquired his passion for literature and all performing arts from his mother, whose family were Viennese. The elegance of Feld's own appearance and style always seemed somehow to belong more to Vienna than Berlin.

At school at the Sophiengymnasium he began to develop his lifelong radical and humanist ideals; and in the heady political atmosphere at the close of the first world war was vice-president of the school's revolutionary council. He remembered, rushing to the offices of *Rote Fahne* the morning after the murders of Rosa Luxemburg and Carl Liebknecht to get the new issue of the paper, with Liebknecht's last editorial. The offices, however, had been occupied by the police and Feld was arrested as a suspect subversive. He was horrified to be taken home by a policeman who advised his father to give him a good spanking.

Feld went on to study law at the universities of Berlin, Freiburg and Würzburg. In the inflation and unemployment of the early 1920s, he gratefully accepted a job as salesman with a Berlin export-import firm, but it was short-lived, as the company rapidly followed the general rush to bankruptcy.

In 1926 he discovered his true métier when he joined the staff of *Film-Kurier*, a Berlin



daily dedicated to the cinema, which also published elaborate printed programmes for every film released in Germany. Feld had often to cover three performances in one day, producing his notices in time for the next morning's edition. Working at this pace, talking his articles directly into a dictaphone, he developed a direct, spontaneous literary style which was new in German criticism, and which could not be disguised by the variety of pseudonyms under which he wrote.

Feld was above all interested in the processes of film making, and his film-maker friends included Sergei Eisenstein, Bela Balazs and Carl Mayer. He was an enthusiast for the avant-garde and a fierce opponent of censorship, and took a special interest in the musical accompaniment of silent films. In 1927 he persuaded an art historian friend, Lotte Eisner, to try her

hand at film criticism. She was to become one of the most celebrated European critics and historians of cinema; and in the *Film-Kurier* days was Feld's constant ally in the crusade for the art film.

In 1932, following critical differences with the chief editor, Ernst Jäger, Feld left *Film-Kurier* to join a film company. His production plans were frustrated when the Nazis came to power. In 1933 he left Germany for Prague, where he established a German-language cultural monthly, *Die Kritik*, with a Czech-language supplement, *Kulturm Most* (Culture Bridge). Publishing such authors as Max Brod and Karel Capek, the magazine sought to strengthen cultural solidarity between the two countries. Feld also wrote for Jewish and left-wing newspapers, and worked in the film studios as a cutter and writer, mostly involved with preparing Ger-

man-dialogue versions of Czech films.

He moved on to London in May 1935 and was soon involved not only with other émigrés from German cinema, but also with the young people involved in John Grierson's documentary film movement. For a time he edited their monthly *World Film News*. A plan to produce a remake of D. W. Griffith's *Orphans of the Storm* collapsed for lack of finance.

Feld, who was naturalised in 1947, ensured a livelihood by moving into the food industry, and became a director of L. I. Silber and Co and of Iberian Foods. Much later he collaborated with his son Michael on the English translation of a standard text on food production, Hans-Joachim Lange's *Methods of Analysis for the Canning Industry* (1983).

In his eighties and to the very end of his life, his keenness for the arts, for politics and above all for the cinema never diminished. He was active with such Jewish organisations as the Leo Baeck Institute and Zion House, of which he was chairman; and an enthusiastic supporter of the activities of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. His precise recollections of German film history were more and more in demand, and he contributed extensively to the publication of the *Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek* in former West Berlin and to Hans-Michael Bock's mammoth, on-going German film lexicon, *Cinegraph*.

His wife Käthe (née Behr), whom he married in 1928, shared his enthusiasms, which also included the nineteenth century writer E. T. A. Hoffmann. To the very end of Feld's life they continued to follow the contemporary cinema no less intently than they had in the great (and certainly more thrilling) days of Lang and Murnau and Pabst.

Na'isa Assad

NA'ISA Assad, the mother of President Hafez Assad of Syria, died on July 21 in the village of Qardaha. She was in her late 90s.

She was the second wife of the president's father, Ali, and was her husband's junior by 20 years. He died in 1963, shortly after the coup that first brought Assad's Ba'ath Party to power. Regarded as a strong-minded woman in her

own right, she bore a daughter and five sons, one of whom died in early adulthood. Hafez, born in 1930, was the fourth child of their marriage and the ninth of his father's 11 children. Na'isa Assad was believed to have been born around the year 1895 in a mountain village not far from Qardaha, which is largely populated by members of the country's Alawite minority, 130 miles northwest of Damascus.

Defeat of the Spanish Armada, 1588. The Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer were married in St Paul's Cathedral, 1981.

Church news

Retirement The Rev Edward Johnson, Vicar, Ramstead, Epsom and Fawley w. Leaford (Oxford) to retire as from October 26, when he will become a non-stipendiary minister.

Nominations The Rev George Pitt, formerly Director of Bible Schools with CMS in Zaire, to be Vicar of Penycuik in the diocese of St Asaph. The Rev Beatrice Anne Pitt, formerly with CMS in Zaire, to be NSM Assistant Curate in the parish of Penycuik in the diocese of St Asaph.

Racing memento sold

A PAINTING of the late Pat Taaffe on Arkle, the partnership acknowledged through-out racing as one of the greatest combinations of horse and rider ever to clear a steeplechase fence sold for £6,160 at Sotheby's in Billingshurst, West Sussex, yesterday.

It went to a woman from Sussex buying on behalf of the owner of two National Hunt horses. He had asked her to buy it because of his admiration for the famous partnership. Interest from Ireland and the racing fraternity meant that the painting

sold well above its pre-sale estimate of £2,500 to £3,500. The picture, 31ins by 25ins, was inscribed and dated May 1966, the year Taaffe and Arkle won their third consecutive Cheltenham Gold Cup. It appeared in a sale of sporting pictures, in which the top lot was "Roll Cry", a hunting scene by John Dalby of York, signed and dated 1853 and considered one of the best examples of his work to come on the market in recent years. It showed nine riders taking fences and went to an anonymous telephone bidder for £30,800.

Latest wills

Recent wills include (net, before tax paid): Mr Edward James Arkham, of Malpas, Cheshire, £543,226; Mrs Hannah Mary Bailey, of Stannmore, northwest London, £1832,960; Mrs Audrey Sybil Brink-Holt, of Saffron Walden, Essex, £122,053; Mrs Jessie Lawrence Carr, of Leicester, £629,362; Mr Thomas Harrison Charlton, of Durham, £1,338,677; Mr James Henry Crook, of High Wycombe, Bucks, £654,023; Gertrude Mary Gill Dixon, of London N20, £811,056; Mrs Ivy Margaret Fuller, of Hove, East Sussex, £588,808.

Mr George Robert Batch Hall, of Walton, Norfolk, £615,234; Mr William Edward Hardscastle, of Hale, Greater Manchester, £748,773; Mr George Harman Hunt, of Penn. Bucks, £590,337; Anne Vera Laumas, of Dawlish, Devon, £698,017; Mr Moses Charles Lloyd, of Southport, Merseyside, £3,298,840; Mr Harry Lee, of Welwyn Heath, Herts, £657,122; Mr John Leigh Reed, of Bridgforth, Salop, £253,435; Mr Stanley Paul Wistler, of Chipstead, Surrey, £1,361,509.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Alexis Charles de Trosperville, historian, Paris, 1805; Benito Mussolini, Predappio, Italy, 1883; Sigmund Romberg, composer, Saged, Hungary, 1897. **DEATHS:** Thomas Stucley, adventurer, killed at the battle of Alcazar, 1578; William Wilberforce, founder of the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, London, 1833; Robert Schumann, composer, Bonn, 1856; Vincent Van Gogh, painter, committed suicide, Arvers-sur-Oise, 1890; Umberto I, king of Italy 1878-1900, assassinated, Monza, 1900; Edward Gordon Craig, theatre designer and producer, Venice, France, 1906; Sir John Barbirolli, conductor, 1970; David Niven, film actor, Switzerland, 1983.

Olympian bicycle carries Lotus hopes in tandem



Plane advantage: Chris Boardman at speed on his aerodynamic marvel



BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A REVOLUTIONARY British racing bicycle on which British Olympic gold medal hopes have been raised is getting faster and faster. Last night in Barcelona, Chris Boardman of Liverpool again stunned rival competitors and delighted the crowds by winning his quarter-final heat in 4 minutes 24.496 seconds, an improvement of nearly three seconds over his ride on Monday, which was an unofficial world record.

Leading bicycle manufacturers failed to take up the machine when it was offered to them in 1982. Mike Burrows had to turn to the engineering arm of Lotus Cars of Norwich, Norfolk, in 1990 to realise his dream of an ultra-streamlined machine capable of propelling a rider 10 to 12 seconds faster over a 4,000

metre race than rival designs. While the bicycle is, at around 18lbs, not the lightest machine ever built, the designers have managed to reduce dramatically the effects of wind resistance and drag. "Obviously you do not want an overweight bicycle," Mr Burrows said. "Four kilometres is quite a short event and acceleration is clearly important. But it is the aerodynamics that are staggeringly important."

The main aerodynamic innovation is the frame, made from a single mould, or monocoque, of carbon fibres strengthened with lightweight titanium. Other features include carbon fibre wheels - disc shaped at the back and spoked at the front, made by Mavic of France - and German-made light-

weight tubular tyres which contribute to a balance between aerodynamics and control. The success of the bike, which was ready for competition only on Friday and which Mr Boardman had been testing in wind tunnels until this week, might be the boost Lotus Cars needs following the decision of GM to stop production of the Elan following a slump in the luxury car market.

Yesterday the company, which has had to lay off workers because of the recession, said it had plans to make production models, turning out several hundred hand-made machines each year. The machines could retail at £3,000, sources said.

Sport, page 28

Olympic sketch

Breathless fun is for the birds

It would be too much to say that the wind was blowing. As the temperature continued to climb in Barcelona, it was just about breathing: it felt like the last long expiration of a dying dragon. And you need wind to windsurf.

Penny Way, British windsurfer and hot medal hope (everything is hot here, we are at 107), was pacing about the place wondering when, or if, her event was to start. She is as thin as a rake: she has been starving herself like a jockey for a year and more, so she can ride the almost imperceptible winds of a Mediterranean July.

She has been a full-time windsurfer for years, but this, the first time women's windsurfing has been part of the Olympics, is the big one. She is aiming to make these the finest days of her life. Halcyon days? The halcyon was a bird that nested on the surface of the sea, and was so beloved of the gods that they sent day after day of warm and calm waters.

The yachties do not love halcyon days. There was no racing at all on the first day, for the dragon did not breathe at all. It started late on the second day, but at least they were racing. Yachting is really nothing against yacht racing other than the fact that it is elitist, expensive, incomprehensible, tedious and you have to go out in a boat to watch it. This, I learn, qualifies me as a windsurfer fan.

Windsurfing is really yachting for hoodlums. Windsurfers were invented in the 70s: cheap, accessible, democratic, fun: no wonder the yachting establishment howled with horror, withdrew its skirts and would have nothing to do with them.

Many harbourmasters in Britain ban them. Some yacht clubs will not accept them. They are not boats, after all: they are a kind of wet skateboard. It is sailing for landlubbers. It is not really appropriate to the yellow-walled freemasonry of sailors.

Windsurfers are craft for beachbums. One associates them with tans and reflective shades and neon-pink clothes: Penny Way has all three, and each is more dazzling than you would believe possible. Windsurfing attracts middle-

class drop-outs: they go to places like Hawaii to ride the big winds and mountainous waves, and then move on to, say, Antigua. Barrie Edgington, Britain's medal contender in the men's event, wore his hair past his shoulders until he was overtaken by a fit of respectability last week.

These are not really clubbable people: certainly not yachting-clubbable. They are also extremely fit: an hour's race is a gruelling physical test. They are more athletes than pure yachters. Way caused serious damage to the muscles of her arms by over-training: five hours a day windsurfing is a colossal load.

Windsurfers have won acceptance if not respectability. There was a change of guard at the International Yacht Racing Union, and with it a change of heart. The new boys knew a fair amount when they saw one. The thing is, you can buy a second-hand board for a couple of hundred quid, keep it propped up against the wardrobe and take it to water on the roof-rack. It banishes all the old notions of yachting: tearing up £5 notes in the shower, and all that. When will we get the first gold-medal-winning windsurfer from the ghetto?

There is money to be made in the sport. There is a full-time professional circuit, run under the IRFU banner, that involves the spectacular and wildly photogenic event of wave-jumping, as well as slalom and course-racing. It needs a lot of wind and serious waves. The top performers earn half a million bucks a year.

The Olympic stuff is less outrageous, involves only course-racing, and doesn't require a big blow. This is just as well. Racing finally started in what sailors call "light airs". This was the first of a ten-race series. Way came fourth in her first race, and Edgington was back in the pack, 5.40 min. Maybe the haircut was counter-productive. It is intoxicating stuff. Indeed, it is the only yachting event that even remotely looks like fun. "It can be tough," Way said. "But I'll keep doing it until something better comes along. And I haven't found it yet."

SIMON BARNES

Lamont under two-pronged attack

Continued from page 1
place to slump again, it said. The CBI preferred to describe Britain's economic path as "corrugated" or "bumping along the bottom".

The CBI did, however, have kinder words for the Chancellor over the VAT agreement. It welcomed the deal and said he had secured an agreement that would protect vital export interests.

Yesterday morning, Mr Lamont rounded on Euro-sceptics such as Lord Tebbit who said the deal was "con-

trary to 1,000 years of British sovereignty". The Chancellor maintained: "We have not conceded anything new, or anything of great practical significance."

The deal agreed in Brussels prevents EC member states from reducing the standard VAT rate below 15 per cent for the next four years. Mr Lamont said: "We have accepted a legally binding minimum rate of VAT, as we long ago accepted it under Nigel Lawson for excise duties. We have to have that to complete

the single market. This will make no difference to our ability in the next few years to set the rate of VAT that we want. The structure within which we operate will be re-examined in four years' time, and if we don't like it then we can change it. Anybody who thinks we are about to reduce our rate of VAT overnight really needs to have his head examined."

Diary, page 12
Leading article, page 13
CBI gloom, page 17

Bush talks of action against Iraq

Continued from page 1
Bush and congressional leaders, Thomas Foley, the Democratic speaker in the House of Representatives, said the president had wide support in Congress for his hard line towards Saddam. It had been emphasised to Mr Bush that any action must have the support of the UN and Gulf War coalition allies. Mr Foley said, but Senator Dole left open the possibility of unilateral US action. "I think most of us around the table feel that we ought to keep the

coalition together. If everything else fails, then I think we all want the president to come back to us and say, 'we've tried this: the coalition support has deteriorated: should we go it alone?'"

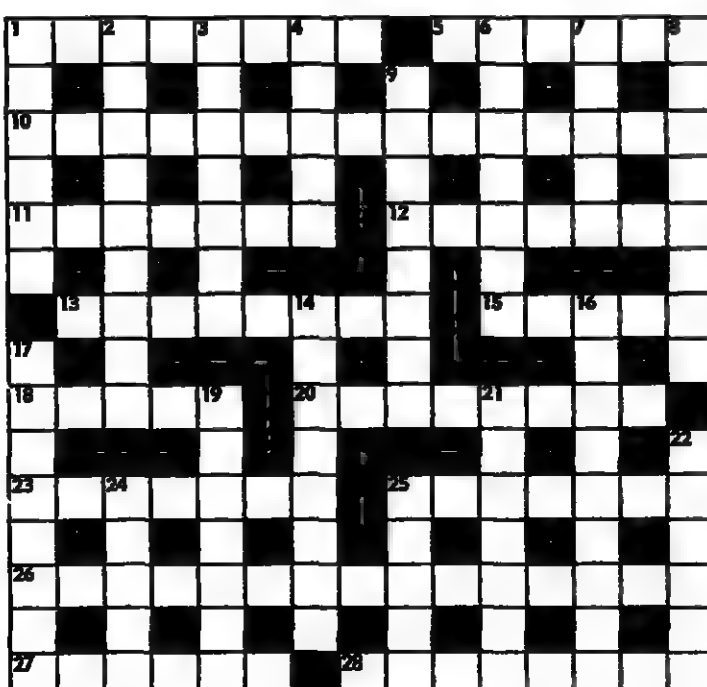
The president's briefing came 12 hours after his fourth meeting in a week with national security advisers. One option discussed was putting American officials on the Iraq-Jordanian border to monitor the UN trade embargo. The bulk of the sanction-

ing goods flowing into Iraq are believed to be entering via Jordan.

They also considered shooting down Iraqi warplanes being used against the Shia Muslims in the south of Iraq. Increased administration briefings on the Iraqi activity in the area seem to suggest that America intends to make this issue the next major confrontation point with Baghdad. Kurdish leaders plan to ask America for anti-aircraft weapons.

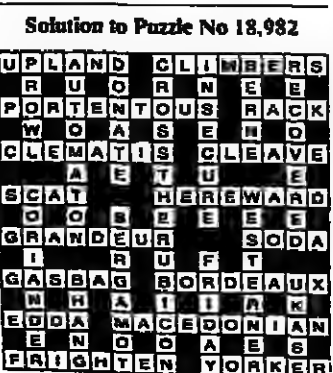
Ministry access, page 10

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,983



- ACROSS
- Lead taken to finish the game (8).
 - Backward schoolboy's howler (4-2).
 - No time to stop in the Stock Exchange (12,3).
 - Chimney fitted into baffle that is feathered (7).
 - Sue provides a bachelor with cheese-spread (7).
 - This cigar produces a superb ring (8).
 - Low-flying leaders going through a Gothic arch (5).
 - Gorge some of baby's sweets (5).
 - Cruise casually around northeast in comfortable berth (8).
 - Crude tattoo beaten by the West Indians (7).
 - There's a cutting edge to this maxim on the decorative border (7).
 - Keeping in good shape, unaffected by psychiatrist (6-9).

- DOWN
- Two-headed elbow-bender? (6).
 - Corporation in vote against City's disgraceful behaviour (9).
 - Result, incidentally, of bowling having deteriorated (4-3).
 - Unfertilized seed of universal love, perhaps (5).
 - Gander appears to need double energy (4-3).
 - This priest digs soldiers (5).
 - Where unusually happy individual can make his money talk (3,5).
 - Refractory remnant delivered (8).
 - Ready with simple sweater? (8).
 - Patty brings everybody to the greenwood (9).
 - Musical baggage-handler? (8).
 - Jabber in the clinic (7).
 - Fiery torch taken up by Pole (7).
 - Wheat's cut down with a sweep of the scythe (6).
 - Slow movement of longship (5).
 - Sofa's disposed of in the Depression (5).



This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 23 per cent of the competitors at the 1992 Bristol regional final of The Times InterCity Crossword Championship.

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

- LAIRADA
a. The Ptolemaean letter L
b. An erotic dance
c. A type of cheap motor scooter
- PTOCHOGONY
a. Creating beggars
b. A kidney transplant
c. A peddler of the gods
- FYLROT
a. A tall tale
b. A division of the Anglo-Saxon fyrd
c. A sword
- NAHUATL
a. The Aztec language
b. Fermented cacao liquor
c. A stepped obelisk

Answers on page 14


AA ROADWATCH

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London & SE	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T423	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Medians	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
North-west Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

	Moon rises 4.48 am	Moon sets 8.24 pm
NEW MOON 8.35pm		
YESTERDAY		
Temperatures at various locations: C. cloud		

Sun rises:	5.20 am	Sun sets:	8.59 pm
Moon rises:	4.48 am	Moon sets:	8.24 pm

YESTERDAY

Temperature at midday yesterday (c, cloud, f, fair, r, rain, s, sun)	C	F
Bristol	15	59
Birmingham	16	61
Blackpool	17	63
Belfast	18	64
Birmingham	17	63
Bristol	16	61
Cardiff	16	61
Edinburgh	16	61
London	16	61
Manchester	16	61
Newcastle	16	61
Nottingham	16	61
Sheffield	16	61
Southampton	16	61
Stirling	16	61
Swansea	16	61
Wolverhampton	16	61
Wrexham	16	61

WEATHER

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MIDDAY: 10-hourly, 40-degree, 10-hourly, 40-degree

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Aberdeen	10	10	10	10
Blackpool	17	17	17	17
Birmingham	16	16	16	16
Belfast	18	18	18	18
Birmingham	17	17	17	17
Bristol	16	16	16	16
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Stirling	16	16	16	16
Swansea	16	16	16	16
Wolverhampton	16	16	16	16
Wrexham	16	16	16	16

TOURIST RATES

Area	Rate	Area	Rate
Australia	2.56	Spain	2.48
Austria	2.56	Switzerland	2.48
Belgium	2.56	Turkey	2.48
Canada	2.56	USA	2.48
Denmark	2.56	West Indies	2.48
Finland	2.56	Yugoslavia	2.48
France	2.56		
Germany	2.56		
Greece	2.56		
Holland	2.56		
Italy	2.56		
Japan	2.56		
Norway	2.56		
Portugal	2.56		
South Africa	2.56		
Spain	2.56		
Sweden	2.56		
Switzerland	2.56		
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Today's pollen count forecast is LOW SELDANE.

A major advance in hayfever treatment.

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MIDDAY:

Richard Morrison meets Alexander Goehr, whose choral work *The Death of Moses* premieres in Seville and at the Proms

Religious music is born again

The 120-year-old Moses refuses to die. "Why should I?" he demands of God. He sings the sun, moon, rain and rivers to speak out on his behalf — to no avail. God, meanwhile, cannot find an angel willing to summon Moses to death. He has to go himself. Finally, Moses dies — though his heartbroken mother (presumably aged well over 30) goes on searching for him at the places of his greatest triumphs: the Red Sea, Mount Sinai.

Is this a story likely to fascinate sophisticated and sceptical modern listeners? A legend about a tribal leader who lived 3,000 years ago, embellished with a touch of medieval whimsy? The answer is that this weekend it will command the attention of not one but two vast audiences.

In Seville Cathedral on Friday, Alexander Goehr's *The Death of Moses* receives its world premiere by the Monteverdi Choir under John Eliot Gardiner. Two nights later the same forces perform it at the Proms, with BBC TV broadcasting the concert. To set the scene for the new choral work, it will be preceded by *Israel in Egypt*, Handel's tremendous oratorio about an earlier chapter in the Moses story.

Goehr, Cambridge professor of music since 1976, does not disguise the fact: *The Death of Moses* confronts readers on the deepest spiritual questions. "What drew me to these medieval Hebrew poems is Moses's petulance," he says. Because of his exalted position he has connections; he can address the Almighty directly. "Why do I have to die?" asks, and the Almighty can only reply "Because I ordained it." Not because I ordained it, you will note. There is a feeling of a faceless bureaucracy at work; nobody, not even the Almighty, actually knows the reason why you must die.

Moses is not the first work this summer to bring audiences face to face with naked religion. Another British composer, John Tavener, has produced a remarkable succession of pieces conveying his Orthodox faith, in music of spellbinding ritualistic solemnity. Indeed his *Aldeburgh Festival* opera, *Mary of Egypt*, was not unlike *Moses* in scope: neither weighty theological dialogue, another holy death.

Yet Tavener, far from boring audiences, has won an unexpected cult status. His mystical cello concerto, *The Protecting Veil*, has topped the classical charts for weeks. There are others who believe music should uncompromisingly speak about the great matters of life and after-life. The Estonian minimalist Arvo Pärt has attracted much interest by setting ancient religious texts to music of utter calm. By contrast, the highly rated young Scot, James MacMillan, channels his Catholic fervour into burning passion: music his percussion concerto called *Veni, Veni*.

'Moses is not the first work this summer to bring audiences face to face with religion'

Emmanuel is premiered at the Proms on August 10.

Clearly, such composers are fulfilling a need — which is remarkable because 20 years ago religious music seemed to be declining towards extinction. The Church had long since ceased to be a musical patron of any consequence. Indeed, the prevailing fashion among clergy was to distrust, and therefore often expel, "complicated" music. By that they usually meant anything with a musical or philosophical basis more demanding than "Three Blind Mice". Music of the lowest common denominator was what they sought, and denominations do not come much lower than the banal refrains crooned in most churches today.

Serious composers had, in any case, largely shunned religion as a subject. Olivier Messiaen, who celebrated his Catholicism in compositions of unselfconscious ecstasy, was regarded as a freakish anachronism in a materialist world.

In part, this attitude was an understandable reaction to totalitarian horrors: a resolve not to be hoodwinked again by any "Big Idea", whether presented by church, state or commerce. A resolve, in fact, to

treat any overt emotional appeal as suspicious.

That was compounded, in the post-war years, by composers who saw themselves as "scientists of sound" — cool-headed experimentalists, twiddling knobs in laboratories, pushing back frontiers. For them, music meant graphs, oscillators, the higher branches of mathematics. The idea that this brave new world could be harnessed to some ramshackle and hopelessly irrational old superstitions was thought absurd. Even those composers who did explore the bigger questions of human existence (notably Britten and Shostakovich) did so from the humanist position.

Goehr, 60 on August 10, is acutely conscious of how far musical thinking has swung round in recent years. The phoney scientific approach is discredited. Emotion — and spirituality — is now at a premium. "Anybody of my age, who came to consciousness in 1945, must come to terms with the disintegration of the political and artistic paradigms established then. Perhaps it happens to every generation: almost everything that was believed to be, turned out not to be."

His *Moses*, however, is far from being a straightforward appeal to his listeners' sense of spirituality: it sets out to strike deep and disturbing resonances. Goehr says that his attention was first drawn to these poems by an Israeli poet, "as a way in which one could deal with the Holocaust."

So does *Moses*, by refusing to die without fuss, epitomise the way that the whole Jewish race has hung on through centuries of persecution? "That is the metaphor, of course," says Goehr. "The Jews are called the people of Moses, and the idea of refusal to die is how it connects with the Holocaust. On the other hand, this isn't a Jewish national work; if you told me it's also for Palestinians who also don't wish to die, it suits me fine."

Moses also pays homage to two earlier composers of great religious music. One is Schoenberg, whose unfinished opera *Moses und Aron* is quoted at one point by Goehr. "My *Moses* is the same figure as the one in Schoenberg's opera," he says. "Schoenberg is my Moses."

The other composer is Mon-



"Schoenberg is my Moses": Goehr in Cambridge, where he has been professor of music since 1976

teverdi, who provided the inspiration for the style of the orchestration, though not the actual instruments (which include bass guitar, synthesizers and saxophones). A very small ensemble is employed, that was almost dictated, by the nature of the commission from the charitable trust. The

John S. Cohen Foundation, which specified that the work should be within reach of good amateur choirs (Cambridge University Musical Society is doing it in December).

In Seville on Friday, though, the work will be a major British contribution to the Columbus junketing. "I

have no interest in Columbus," says Goehr. "But 1492 was also the year the Jews were expelled from Spain. To be premiering, quite by chance, a work on this subject in Spain on the 500th anniversary of that event is incredible."

So there is a God. "Well," says Goehr, with the scholarly

caution appropriate to a Cambridge don. "Let us say that no amount of human calculation would ever have brought it about."

● *The Death of Moses* will be performed at the Albert Hall, London SW7 (071-823 9998) on Sunday at 7.30pm (also on Radio 3 and BBC 2)

ARTS BRIEF

Century duty

A NEW gallery devoted to the 20th century is opening at the Victoria and Albert Museum in October. The gallery will span the history of consumer design from 1900 to 1992 and will explore the wide range of design ideas, techniques and materials that have defined consumer and household products throughout the century. Exhibits will include lighting, tableware, furniture, clothing, radios, books, electrical goods and hi-fi equipment; among them will be Rennie Mackintosh fireplaces, Alessi kettles, Swatch watches and Dr Marten's shoes, all of them landmarks in design history. More than 600 objects drawn from the V & A's permanent collections will be on display.

Birds snared

THE American debut of Timberlake Wertenbaker's 1991 Royal Court hit play, *Three Birds Alighting on a Field*, has been called off after it ran into problems with American Equity. The play, with a British cast, had been announced to open off-Broadway in September, launching the Manhattan Theatre Club's new season. However, the theatre was unable to come up with a suitable American play for transfer to London, failing to satisfy the union's requirements that American actors get a comparable amount of work in Britain.

Instead, the theatre will launch its 1992-93 season with a revival of another London play, Caryl Churchill's *Mad Forest*, with an all-American cast. The theatre then presents the Sondheim musical revue, *Putting It Together*, which was seen in Oxford in January.

Last chance...

THE Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has not been in London for 20 years, so the company's season at the Coliseum affords a rare opportunity to see one of the world's most popular dance troupes. This week features an all-Ailey programme, including his 1960 signature piece, *Revelations*, which explores the history of black America, set to the music of the spirituals of the Deep South. Also on the bill are *Blues Suite*, inspired by the childhood memories of the late choreographer, and *Cry*, a solo for "all black women everywhere". Catch it until Saturday (071-836 3161).

RADIO REVIEW

In search of the fraternal verities

Like many Marx Brothers devotees, I can't stand the attempt to revive them on Saturdays on Radio 4 in *Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel*. Great, manic comedy seems to dwindle here into a few limp, self-conscious jokes.

How delightful, then, to find the two actors who play Groucho and Chico in *Flywheel* — Michael Roberts and Frank Lazarus — turning their excellent imitation of the voices to such good account in *Night at the Westland* Radio 3, Sunday.

The author of the play, David Stafford, had imagined that the two of them came to see T.S. Eliot in London to persuade him to write them a last, literary movie. There was a brilliant beginning, with Groucho and Chico going off irrepressibly into little cadenzas of punning even as they grimly discussed what future there was for the Brothers as "three sick old men". The first meeting with Eliot was also excellent, with Groucho earnestly wanting to discuss whether King Lear was crazy or only phoney-crazy, and Eliot (Kerry Shale) just cackling madly at his memories of the Marx Brothers films — and putting Groucho right about which films particular bits occurred in.

Interest slackened when Eliot came up with his screenplay. This monstrous farago — with Groucho as J. Alfred Prufrock, who is really the healer Reilly in disguise, and

so on — was not quite as funny as it should have been, more of an exercise in spotting Eliotic allusions.

However, the climax of Eliot's film was to be Harpo dying on a cross on an anvil — and the polite dismay with which the Brothers greeted this brought everything to life again. Eliot dived into his memory of the films once more and came up with a final comic twist: cascades of stolen silver knives and spoons could come pouring out of Harpo's sleeves at the moment of death. They all turned to Harpo for his verdict, and in a little, squeaky voice he spoke the only known word of his career: "No". Harpo the destroyer had brought the Marx Brothers' bid for literary fame to an end.

Michael Roberts has been having rather more success, with a play adapted for the screen, *Noises Off*, opening in the cinemas last week, and a TV play, *Birthday*, which had apparently been wiped off and lost, reappearing in a radio adaptation (Radio 4, Saturday).

As it opened, the whining Liz (Deborah Findlay) was about to celebrate her 27th birthday by having her married sister Jess to lunch in her dimly lit chaotic flat, and at first I thought her perpetual complaints as she muddled her way through her Sunday morning preparations were going to prove too much for me. Goodbye, Sidies! But once the pregnant Jess (Dawn French) arrived, full of bouncing prejudice and unquestioning self-satisfaction, a worthy bank began.

Jess has her baby at Liz's, of course, surrounded by amateur Freudians and half-baked welfare workers screaming "relax" at her; and after the child is born a wave of hope and happiness seems to run through the flat. But Frayn knows his Sixties flat-dwellers. The birthday is not over before they have all made their way back to the wasteland again.

DERWENT MAY

Ed's encore in Toronto

Simon Tait on how the saviour of the Old Vic is building a new theatre just for *Miss Saigon*

Ed Mirvish says: "When I start to make sense, I'm going out of business. Everything I do is mad." The latest eccentricity of Toronto's best-known multi-millionaire is to build a \$50 million (£22m) theatre just to house *Miss Saigon*, because the Canadian city does not have a theatre big enough for the musical.

Mirvish had not even seen *Miss Saigon* when he decided to build a 2,000-seat theatre for it, on his son David's advice; building is on schedule, the roof goes on this week. If all goes well, it will open on May 26 next year.

Mirvish owns the Royal Alexandra in Toronto and the Old Vic in London but professes to know nothing about the theatre, leaving that side of the family concerns to his son. "Me, I'm a storekeeper. Theatre is unpredictable, and David is the boss," he says.

For a theatrical entrepreneur Ed Mirvish has an unlikely background: born in Virginia 78 years ago, he grew up on Toronto's Jewish west side. His father opened a grocery shop during the Depression and went broke because he could not resist giving credit, and died young. Mirvish opened his own store in 1940 after cashing in his wife's insurance policy for \$215; the store went on to become the biggest — and most garish — discount house in Toronto, with 22,000 lights proclaiming the name "Honest Ed's".

He bought the Royal Alex, the city's last surviving Edwardian theatre, for \$750,000 in 1962 to save it from demolition, and spent \$500,000 restoring it. Business is booming under David's guidance. The run of *Les Misérables* has just ended and the show is now touring, being replaced by *Buddy*, brought from London two years ago and now back from its American tour. Next season the programme includes Willy Russell's musical *Blood Brothers*.



Ed (right) and David Mirvish at the Old Vic, London

on a pre-Broadway run.

Ten years ago, on the advice of friends, including Peter O'Toole and John Gielgud, Ed Mirvish put in a sealed bid for London's Old Vic and found himself the new owner of one of the most famous theatres in the world. His bid beat one from Andrew Lloyd Webber, who offered to buy back part of the theatre complex and make a partnership. "I never have partners or shareholders," Mirvish says. "Partnership is fine as long as things work out, but as soon as they go wrong you have to sit around for the next three years talking about it."

For the new theatre, there is no board of directors, and all the financing comes from Mirvish money. To get planning permission for the new theatre, one parking space had to be provided for every five seats. Four stores of parking beneath the theatre was not enough, so Mirvish had to buy another nearby building, surrounded by space, for \$10.7 million.

"Now we have it — next to the Metro Centre (the city's new civil service headquarters), the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation building, and two blocks from the SkyDome

— it's the logical place to put two more theatres," says Mirvish. "But we're not getting carried away. Pay as you go, then look for something else."

"Except for the O'Keefe Centre, this will be the first new theatre in Toronto for 70 years," says David Mirvish. "Miss Saigon is the only way we could justify it — it's as if *Miss Saigon* is giving the city a gift."

Musicals have been good to David Mirvish, despite the West End failure of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* two years ago. Towards the end of Jonathan Miller's artistic directorship at the Old Vic the budget was going into deficit, and David Mirvish cancelled the last two shows. Instead he put on Howard Panter's production of *Carmen Jones*, which was due to close last January 6. The show went on to win four Olivier Awards this year and is now booking to next January.

The Mirvish credo is "Find out what people need and supply it", and Toronto needs theatres. "We want to see Toronto becoming an important destination," adds David Mirvish, "and if we built five more theatres they'd all be filled."

TELEVISION REVIEW

Vessel of shallow draught

In strict, trades-descriptions-act terms, *The True Adventures of Christopher Columbus* (BBC 2 last night, tonight, tomorrow and Friday) is a comic shambles and a sham. But then, so was Columbus, a.k.a. Cristóbal Colón, who may or may not have been Italian, Portuguese or Spanish and who, in 1492, may or may not have been the first European expedition leader to make landfall in the Americas.

Patrick Barlow is famous chiefly for another sham, his "National Theatre of Brent", and that company's miniaturised epics, such as *The Messiah*, *Mighty Moments from World History and Revolution!* He wrote this four-part and co-directed (with Philip Bonham-Carter).

Barlow makes an initially sympathetic pudding out of Columbus/Colón, played as a diffident, Harry Worth sort of visionary, apologising to everybody he meets. Uncertain as to the pronunciation of his Spanish name (imagine calling yourself Mr Colón: how amusing), he bumbles about ("Is this the royal palace of Spain?" he asks, at the door) waiting for destiny to strike. The anachronistic, super-sophisticated approach to history as black farce, as pioneered by *Monty Python* and its offshoots, may have reached its peak with *Blackadder*. There is no longer much comic mileage to be had from 15th-century worthies slipping into late-20th-century idiom, from coarsening displays of religious persecution and torture, or from exaggeratedly autocratic behaviour by those in authority.

Tim Pigott-Smith and Miranda Richardson, as Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile, the "Catholic kings" of Spain, mangle their vowels, spit their consonants and camp it up outrageously as sexually repressed monster-monarchs. Their Herald, Freddie Jones, glides about as on castors, ushering in petitions for royal favour, among whom Carmela Romero smoulders memorably as a flamenco dancer on the make. She must be glad she had no dialogue.

As the historical references become more hysterically compressed — "Not now, we're in the middle of the wars with the Moors," hisses Isabella at a hesitantly interrupting Columbus — the mood darkens. The defeat of the Moors (Hugh Quarshie, as a supremely dignified apologist, gets short shrift from Ferdinand) means the explorer gets the nod and two reluctant royal signatures on a contract splitting all projected profits. The Jews are expelled from Spain and the Inquisition steps up its operations.

Graham Stark brings a bracing whiff of earlier, simpler comic movies as a manical

by rhyming Old Sea Dog. Typically of this series, however, he is discovered in a dockside bar full of beer-bottle-swilling "sailors", with a 15th-century jukebox thumping away in the background.

Brief, almost subliminal, dream/fantasy segments and Expressionist camera angles keep the eye alert even when the dialogue is at its most feeble, so that, when the model ships bob over the fabric ocean to the horizon of Episode One, only the sourest viewer could fail to wish them well. Lynne Truss will be reviewing the whole series on Saturday.

TONY PATRICK

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T.S. Eliot: high Marx in a comedy combination

Souvenirs of a murky Paris

As a new wave of guilt about the Vichy regime assails France, Benjamin Ivy reports on two books about the German occupation that evoke strange and disconcerting emotions

THE TIMES
PASSPORT TO
FRANCE

This month has seen the fiftieth anniversary of the first large-scale roundup of Jews in France under the Vichy regime, with the vicims dispatched to die in Germany.

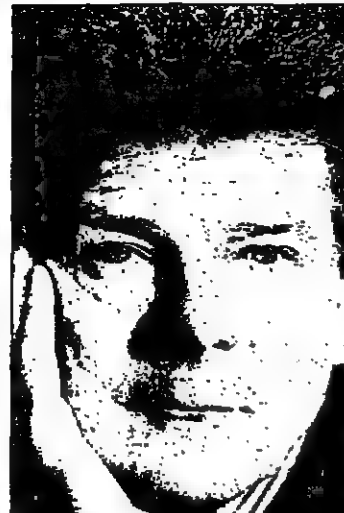
The anniversary has led to fierce new debates about the degree to which the French themselves collaborated with the Nazis in the years of occupation. Few people now doubt that some officials of Marshal Pétain's government engaged in criminal co-operation with the Germans; and there have been solemn acknowledgements and condemnations of French guilt this month. But President Mitterrand will not allow the French nation formally to accept any responsibility for those events, since he will not agree that the Vichy regime ever had a place in the series of legitimate French governments.

Writers have been turning to more intimate examinations of life in France under the Nazis. Last year's Prix Goncourt went to Pierre Combescot's *Les Filles du Calvaire*, which included Hollywood-style episodes about a Jewish nude dancer entertaining Nazi officers during the occupation. Combescot's dancer was also a spy in her spare time.

Two more recent books have re-examined the period with rather more complex and heartfelt results than Combescot's. Dominique Fernandez, also a former Goncourt winner, is the son of the critic Ramon Fernandez, a noted Proletarian, who was a fascist and a collaborator with the Nazis during the war. In an effort to understand how a cultivated man like Ramon Fernandez could have held such views and done such things, Fernandez has written a novel called *Porfirio et Constance*, published by Grasset.

Dominique Fernandez is a stylish man in his mid-sixties, though looking rather younger. Perhaps his best known work abroad is *Porfirio*, about a Venetian castrato singer of the Baroque period; he has also written books such as last year's *Le Rapt de Ganymède* (The Rape of Ganymede, also Grasset), a closely argued polemic about the cultural contributions made to the world by gay people.

In the 500 pages of his new



Fernandez refined



Donner: hate-filled

book, Fernandez may be said to sin by over-refinement. He takes the opportunity to describe a number of things that please him, from paintings by Caravaggio to the bullfight. From this aesthetic viewpoint, he then analyses the voices of demagogues such as Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin, much as a music critic might discuss his favourite operatic tenors. On this basis Fernandez tries to explain how his protagonist, Porfirio, could have embraced fascism. But the book as a whole lacks the vigour which might have brought its complex machinery to resonant life.

Such is not the case with *L'Esprit de vengeance* (The Spirit of Ven-

geance, again Grasset) by Christophe Donner. His new book examines the legend of his grandfather, a hero of the French resistance. Donner is a young man of 34 who earns his living writing books for children in their early teens. But *The Spirit of Vengeance* is as brutal as Fernandez's book is refined.

Donner's book shocks with the sheer quantity and vigour of its hatred. The author says he has been influenced by two other contemporary writers, Thomas Bernhard and Hervé Guibert, both of whom based literary careers on being sharp-tongued and pitiless. Donner goes one better by vilifying his entire adoptive family, the surviving members of which took him to court to get their surname out of his book.

A French court ruled that the family name had to be expunged from all copies, as its use was "an invasion of privacy". All copies of the book on sale today are reprints with blank spaces where Donner used the family name. Where the reprinting was incomplete and the name was printed by accident, it is whittled out by hand in each copy of the book. One wonders whether Donner took part in this painstaking penance himself, or if he left the labours to lowly publishing staffers. It is easy to hazard a guess, based on the general tenor of the book.

Instead of trying to explain evil, as Fernandez does, Donner sets out in principle to explain and evoke heroism, but he has chosen to do so by painting a portrait of himself that can please few people other than himself. Donner says he hates Germans and fascists, but he also reads Jews, apparently because he hates so much of the anti-Semitic author Céline in his youth.

Donner also hates the novelist William Styron ("that fat pig"), the Nazi-hunter Serge and Beate Klarsfeld (whose activities are "a rudely asinine thing that only soils this diabolic couple"), and the film work of Louis Malle ("whoring"). What does Donner like? Well, he likes himself a lot, except that he finds his thighs "a bit too fat". He likes his boyfriend, called here "the little prince", who is nevertheless "dumb". And he is particularly drawn to his grandfather, a philosopher who became a resistance soldier, and who died in a concentration camp at the age of 34. But even here, Donner's view is ambiguous, repeating somewhat dubious



Occupied Paris: the Hôtel Meurice, rue de Rivoli, photographed in 1941 by Roger Schall

rumours about his grandfather's sexuality, his marriage, and even whether he was really Donner's grandfather.

When Donner does draw a positive conclusion from the history he narrates, it usually has a negative cast, such as the impossibility of writing fiction about the Occupation: "What an insult to God it is to create historical fiction!" The author is one of a group of younger French prose writers who believe the novel to be an utterly exhausted and dishonest medium now. Hence the present book is in the form of a travel diary of a trip to Sicily in search of inspiration.

Indisputably positive is the presence of one of Donner's literary heroes, Hervé Guibert, the young French writer who recently died of AIDS. Guibert is wholeheartedly praised for his thinly-concealed fictions about his own friends (and for his diseased and emaciated body). Like Guibert, Donner can be enlightening when describing the reasons that move him to write, or that keep others from writing.

No space is wasted on the author trying to be likeable. We learn that already as a child Donner took part in violent street demonstrations in Paris. The great French tradition of street brawls dates back to well before the Revolution, and it is perhaps this barely reined-in violence that presides over this volume. In fact, by embodying the spirit of a violent-hearted people at a violent time, a book like *The Spirit of Vengeance* may be closer to the heart of its subject than a calmer or more civilised work.

So Donner's book is not nice or fair—but then the subject it treats, the wartime occupation of France, was neither nice nor fair, either. For all that, few will close it without breathing a sigh of pleasure at the thought that its author is not a personal acquaintance.

● *Porfirio et Constance*, by Dominique Fernandez, Grasset Fr134. *L'Esprit de Vengeance*, by Christophe Donner, Grasset Fr115.

STREET FESTIVAL: BRATISLAVA

Danube debris

With Slovakia's independent constitution just a few days old, peculiar things have already begun to happen on the streets of its capital, Bratislava. The city's first ever street-based arts festival got off to a controversial start when a French biochemist calling himself Jesus cathedral naked near the Baroque cathedral before slashing his face with a razor and hacking off his hair (public too) with a pair of scissors.

The festival is Slovakia's first post-communist attempt to encourage a "free happening". Around 40 visiting artists from Romania, Portugal, Italy, France and Great Britain had the casual brief of bringing the old city walls "alive". Encouraged by the current nationalist "buzz" in Bratislava, they quickly turned tribal, tutting at each other's exhibits and hoarding their hammers. Most were young unprofessionals who spent a lot of time drinking and sleeping late before pottering about with powder paint and bits of fabric in the sun.

But it has to be said that the British contingent did us proud. Andy Hazel and Lucy Casson travelled to the festival with only a £10 hand-out from the Slovak Ministry of Culture to look forward to, which bought them some nails, sundry hardware, and two Penguin-shaped hot water bottles. They nevertheless constructed

the festival's only monumental piece: a triumphal arch made of found metal decorated with symbols of Danube debris that so impressed the local British Council that a grant was spontaneously allocated.

Vandalism as well as art has arrived on post-communist Bratislava streets, and one very drunk local was so incensed by a giant Dubcek poster appropriated by the English for one of their pieces that he went on a rampage through the more delicate French exhibits. Only high winds on Saturday's grand opening threatened the English arch that toppled over almost impeding Casson on 30 metal fish. The arch was re-erected and became the background to the night's English contributions to the live happening: a rousing and bemusing recital of a Philip Larkin poem in Slovak by Adrian Palca standing on a table in front of the Dubcek poster (made anonymous by having its head cut off) and a theatrical fireworks display.

At the end of the opening party everybody exchanged names and addresses. The organisers declared Bratislava's "Art Attack" festival open and hoped it would now become a regular feature on the European cultural calendar. Anything that has not been vandalised yet can be seen until August 7.

SIMON MILES

OPERA: VERONA

Intimate grandeur

The vast amphitheatre of the Arena di Verona, which celebrates its seventieth birthday as a home for opera this year, has launched its summer season with a courageous choice.

Verdi's *Don Carlos* is a more difficult work to present than the popular favourites like *Aida* or *Bohème*, but it is important to change even if it means taking a risk," says Maurizio Pulica, the Arena's director.

The strength of the performance lies in its visual spectacle. Don Carlos plays out his luckless fate amid altars set in gilded cages, towers, formal gardens and all the horrors of the Inquisition's torture chamber. The elaborate sets by Dante Ferretti and the frequent scene changes shift the work into almost cinematographic realms.

Unfortunately the protagonists are not as outstanding as their setting. Alberto Cupido's Don Car-

los lacked strength and passion and one almost felt that he deserved to lose Elizabeth to the king's greater power and maturity, well projected by Roberto Scanduzzi.

As Pulica acknowledges, this is a Verdi piece which does not easily adapt to outdoor performance, because it is composed of many intimate episodes, which are often lost in the cavernous stone theatre.

But there are both gripping and delightful moments, including the light-hearted scene in the Queen's garden, where the Princess of Eboli (Giovanna Casolla) establishes herself as a lively and determined rival to Elizabeth. The scene also shows off Gabriella Pescucci's extravagant Velazquez-like costumes for the court ladies, the perfect complement to the set.

RUTH SULLIVAN

● Performances continue to the end of August

Polish art goes back underground

A new Movement is building up in Poland against pressures to conform coming from both church and state, says Roger Boyes

On the wall of the Marszałkowska Street underpass in Warsaw some body has daubed anti-clerical slogans. Instead of the old "Down with communism" there is now "Down with communism". But it is the accompanying pictures that are most interesting: they are rather expert caricatures of parish priests in broad primary colours, well beyond the expertise of normal political graffiti artists.

Suddenly in Poland there is a confluence of nonconformist politics and avant-garde art, a new kind of underground. Some of it seems a little dated, an echo of London in the 1970s. There are art exhibitions where the guests camp it up and pass around a dip bowl of amphetamines. There are "happenings" and street theatre in provocative costumes.

But the movement taking shape in various Polish clubs and basements is more than East-West nostalgia. It responds to the needs of the Polish young of the 1990s who feel that the new Solidarity-rooted society is becoming a clone of the one governed by the communists.

There is no censorship any more, of course, and there are no political prisoners. But the centre-right government is busy putting together a nanny state. Abortions are almost impossible to obtain in hospitals, contraceptives are being removed from pharmacies, television bosses are sacked for disagreeing with the government, and the church is active in many secular areas, even monitoring theatre performances in some towns.

Even when the measures do not directly affect this post-Solidarity generation—casinos and bingo parlours are being squeezed because the Christian parties have pronounced gambling evil—they still contribute to a claustrophobic mood. "I feel like Alice in Wonderland, huge, breaking through the ceilings and the walls," says Beata, a 20-year-old art student from Wrocław.

The new wave in Poland is thus essentially libertarian. When they demonstrate, they march for the legalisation of drugs or against compulsory religious classes in schools. Mainly, though, they do not demonstrate that was the 1980s, this is the 1990s. "We just get on with it," says Wojciech

From, a psychology graduate at the centre of the movement.

Protest is now channelled not through the political process but through art. From has opened a pub in Olstyn that doubles as a cultural centre. He has understood that the young protest artists have nowhere to go any more. The dense cultural infrastructure built up by the communists—"houses of culture" in every small town, grants for local theatre, rent subsidies for painters—has collapsed. Instead, there are private galleries staging exhibitions for well-known or at least saleable artists. Young painters do not get a look-in. Music and theatre groups search in vain for cheap performance space.

From has a full house most nights. His gallery space is occupied by a constantly changing series of artists. On some evenings young poets hold readings of risqué or sexually explicit texts. No bookshop, certainly no church and, sadly, no university will let them read out verse that so directly challenges the Christian orthodoxy of the day. "We think that people should be exposed to this if they want," says From. In fact, local farmers in gumboots often stumble in—it is a pub, after all, and a peasant has the right to a drink—and seem to regard the pony-tailed performers as stranded emissaries from Mars.

Inevitably From and other club owners who function as informal patrons of the arts are coming up against prejudice and bureaucratic harassment. "Olszyn is very provincial," says From, "stuffed with old communists and militant Catholics." The combination produces a strange local power structure. Neighbours of the pub—including an old people's home for retired communist artists—complained about the influx of young people with long hair, muttering (wrongly) that they were dealing in drugs. The landlord in turn complained to the parish priest, who was already receiving worrying reports that singers were using anti-clerical lyrics. Some parishioners had also heard rumours about sexual antics. And so the priest complained to the deputy mayor, who is a graduate from a Catholic university and a devout believer.

Gradually, like a Polish *Clochemerle*, the whole community has started to bicker. From fears



No peace for the artist: the police investigate a club in Warsaw

closure but has managed to keep the pub going. He is even trying to buy a second house.

The Movement spans two generations. There are Poles in their thirties, some of whom were involved in the Solidarity underground politics of the past decade. And there are teenagers who were barely of school age when Lech Walesa led the 1980 strike.

The young ones are usually fans of heavy metal music. There are many such heavy metal groups in Poland, but only a few—such as Varden—have managed to find a commercial record company. They perform in a permanent underworld, moving from club to club and selling their self-recorded cassettes directly to fans.

The older members of the Movement are rather removed from these cult antics but there are groups like Zgoda that attract both the thirtysomethings and the 17-year-olds. The oldest affect hippy-like manners, but they include many accomplished artists who are simply struggling to come to terms with the market.

The communist system, for all its obvious flaws, guaranteed artists a soft passage after graduation from art school. Now they have to learn to sell their art aggressively and the effort hurts. More soothing by far to exhibit at an underground club, and puff on marijuana.

There are many focuses to the

Movement. Some of the clubs do more drugs than art. Others such as Klub C14 have become little more than watering holes for political outsiders—in this case anarchists who drag out their black flag and take to the streets at the slightest excuse. But for the most part serious efforts are being made to foster alternative art and culture. The Fugasi club in Wola, one of Warsaw's toughest worker districts, is putting on stage performances and is plainly a meeting point for the avant-garde. But if the avant-gardists are tired of their own intense, provocative chatter, they can always play bar billiards on one of the many tables.

Whether all this adds up to anything very serious in artistic terms remains to be seen. The experience of the 1980s is not very encouraging. The martial law years produced some very mediocre and crudely political poetry and fiction, and recorded no great artistic innovation. It was a time of protest and survival.

The first years after the 1989 revolution have also been barren as people struggle to come to terms with a rather brutal market. There are no collectives, few rich patrons, and the state has retreated from almost every area of cultural sponsorship.

The new Movement is at least a token of life and curiosity, among a generation that might otherwise have resigned itself to living in a material world.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

● **BARCELONA:** A concentration of cultural sideshows over the Olympic fortnight will bring the two-month Olympic Arts Festival to an end on August 10. The closing concert given by Quincy Jones is dedicated to the athletes. The many cultural activities in the centre of the city continue until September: at the Casa Milà, *Avant-Garde in Catalonia* offers a panoramic view of the innovative spirit that Catalonia experienced during the first decades of this century, with works by artists such as Picasso, Miró, Dali and Tàpies; at Theatre Grec, Irene Papas continues her portrayal of Medea in Nürta Espert's production of Euripides's play (until Aug 9); and at the Theatre Coliseum, Jérôme Savary's staging of *Cabaret* is playing in the repertoire until August 8.

● **CONFOLENS:** The 35th anniversary of the international folk festival celebrates the Columbus quinqucentenary, bringing together companies from Brazil, Ecuador, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Trinidad and Spain. 16500 Confoleons, France. Tel: (010 33) 45840077/45841212. Aug 7-17.

● **HAMBURG:** The new season at the Hamburgische Staatsoper opens on August 23 with a resuscitation of the rarely heard Schumann opera, *Genoveva*, with a cast including Harald Stamm (Hidulfus), Alan Tins (Siegfried), Julia Faulkner (Genoveva) and Keith Lewis (Golo), conducted by Gerd Albrecht (also Aug 26, 29, Sept 3). Joining the repertoire later in the season will be August Everding's production of Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* with Kiri Te Kanawa, Lucie Fopp (see picture), Anna Tomowa-Sintow and Edith Mathis taking turns in the role of the Marschallin (Sept 20, 27, Oct 11, 18).

Hamburgische Staatsoper, Crossehestrasse 34. Tel: (010 4940) 351721.

● **HANOVER:** An extensive exhibition of 70 photographs and seven sculptures executed over the last nine years by Bernhard Prinz whose preoccupation is the tension between illusion and reality. His large-scale glossy photographs, predominantly in warm colours and framed in heavy wooden frames, create the illusion of "old masters". Banal objects, carefully arranged and draped, take on an exclusive or pompous appearance. Kunstverein, Sophienstrasse 2. Tues-Sun, 10am-6pm (Fri to 9pm). Until Sept 6.



Lucia Popp sings in *Der Rosenkavalier* (see Hamburg)

● **LINZ:** The International Bruckner Festival opens on September 12 with a performance of Mahler's Symphony No 2 by Resident orchestra Den Haag under Frans Weeser-Maas and continues until October 4. Luciano Berio conducts his vocal ensemble Electric Phoenix (October 2). Brigitte Fassbender gives a recital of works by Schreker, Bruckner, Brahms and Dvořák (Sept 24); a concert version of Wagner's opera *Der Fliegende Holländer* features Kathryn Harries and Wolfgang Schmidt (Sept 20); Maria Janowski conducts the Philharmonic Radio Orchestra of France (Sept 26, 27); Heinrich Schiff directs the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie and takes the solo part in Shostakovich's Concerto for violin and orchestra (Sept 10). Brucknerhaus, Uniere Donaustrasse 7, Postfach 57, A-4010 Linz. Tel: (010 43 732) 275230. Sept 12-Oct 4.

● **LYON:** The 5th Dance Biennial embraces the "passion of Spain" in its theme, aiming to present all forms of Spanish dance and in particular, choreography inspired by Spanish literature. The programme promises authentic stagings of 17th-century baroque dance dramas as well as ten premieres of new works by leading contemporary companies from France and Spain.

Information: Maison de Lyon, place Bellecour, 69002 Lyon. Tel: (010 33) 72402626/44. 78382892. Sept 12-Oct 4.

● **SEVILLE:** As part of Expo '92, Alexander Goehr's *The Death of Moses* will have its premiere in Seville Cathedral on Friday, followed by a London Prom performance on Sunday. Designed to recreate in contemporary terms the sacred world of Monteverdi, it is a 50-minute choral work for the Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra conducted by John Eliot Gardiner, with a counter-tenor, Michael Chance, tenor Nigel Robson, soprano Sarah Leonard and the London New Children's Choir. The programme also includes Part 1 of Handel's *Israel in Egypt* (see feature page).

Seville Cathedral, plaza del triunfo.

KARI KNIGHT

The cream turns sour in Cornwall

Incomers are pushing up prices and leaving local people out in the cold, a recent report says. Rachel Kelly investigates

Are the Cornish an ethnic minority? This may seem an odd question for those who think of Cornwall only in terms of cream, less spectacular cliffs, coves and a clement climate, but it has just been deemed worthy of debate by the Commission for Racial Equality. It will be less surprising to those with an awareness of Cornwall's tradition of stony independence over the last 15 centuries.

The commission's report last month on racism in the South West looked at the "special characteristics" of Cornwall. The report quotes a local government officer, who says: "There are a substantial number of indigenous Cornish people who feel disadvantaged, compared with 'incomers' in relation to class, income, housing, employment and various other aspects of daily living. This manifests itself in a number of ways — for example, a feeling of 'losing out' to incomers in the scramble for affordable housing."

"Property is a sensitive word in Cornwall. Pick up a local paper in Truro and one sympathises. Delta Cottage, with two to three bedrooms, near the village of Mylor Bridge with views across Restrongnet Creek, is on the market for £215,000. Southern Cottage, a three-bedroomed cottage near Malpas, Truro, with views across the Truro River, is on the market at £240,000. Lower Tregorland, a three-bedroomed cottage set in two acres and

fronting on to the creek at St Just-in-Roseland, near St Mawes, is on sale at £175,000. These are prices which would not disgrace the Home Counties.

Yet turn to the job adverts in the same local paper, and one is struck by the offer of some of the lowest wages in the country.

"This is really the major problem," Andrew George, from Cornwall's Rural Community Council, says. "Wages are among the lowest

anywhere in the country for the South East of England."

The cost of housing is, in Mr George's words, a subterranean issue. It doesn't hit spectacular levels, but it is part of the general sub-political debate. "We are a lot softer than the Welsh," Mr Dale says. "We don't scream and rant and rave about outsiders putting up the price of housing."

It is not just outsiders or "emmetts" — the Cornish word for people from outside the duchy — who buy the expensive properties, of course, as estate agents are quick to point out. Locals buy them too, and second-home owners account for only about 10 per cent of Cornish properties. Cornwall is too far for commuting.

Not are all houses in Cornwall picture-postcard cottages overlooking creeks with prices to match. One estate agent, Joe Collins, is advertising mid-terrace cottages in need of some renovation in Redruth for £28,000. This is an unlikely buy for second-home owners, who would disdain the post-industrial town, as well as its neighbour, Camborne.



Past glories: at £175,000, Lower Tregorland, near St Mawes, is beyond most local means

The prices would not disgrace the Home Counties

In the UK, but house prices are far from the lowest, even with recent falls. (The Nationwide Building Society reports an annual fall of 8.5 per cent in South-Western house prices, and a continued fall in the last three months of 0.8 per cent.)

Prices for scenic properties, with water views in particular, are boosted by buyers from outside Cornwall, bringing them in line with London and the rest of the South East, yet local wages do not match. The average weekly gross income in Cornwall is £343.10,

get on the first rung of the housing ladder are characteristic of the whole country. Despite house price falls, property is still more expensive in this country than in much of the rest of Europe, with a market distorted by tax subsidy and the high price and limited availability of land. Lenders are no longer so ready to offer 100 per cent mortgages as they were at the height of the property boom. Such difficulties for first-time buyers would matter less if there were plentiful alternative accommodation at rents low-income households could afford, but there isn't.

The Institute of Housing, which funds research into housing, has calculated that there are 1.7 million fewer houses to rent today than in 1981, mainly because of council house sales but also because of the continuing decline in private renting. Public sector housing investment has halved between 1976/77 and 1989/90, and social housing output has fallen over the last decade from 84,500 units per year to only 32,500 units per year.

Estate agents, naturally, are the second-home owners' best friend. Ian Lillcrap, from Miller estate agents, says that in his 12 years of

selling property in Cornwall, he has never heard of a local asking that his or her house should not be sold to an outsider. He stresses the variety of housing up for sale, noting a recent sale for £8,000, with property on the market to suit all pockets. Jonathan Haward, of The County Homesearch Company which acts for buyers, has a selection on his books, including a traditional double-fronted cottage on sale through Martin & Buddell — for £130,000, with views of Restrongnet Creek. "And you can buy a house in Truro for £30,000," he says.

Examination of individual markets operating in Cornwall's different towns gives a clearer picture of the local situation than generalisations of the region. Take St Ives: Mr Lillcrap says that about 75 per cent of his properties are sold to out-of-county buyers (the Cornish prefer to talk of the "duchy", but Mr Lillcrap is himself from Leicestershire).

The town of Helston sees about 60 per cent of its houses sold to outsiders, whereas buyers in Camborne and Redruth are virtually all local people. Newquay and St Mawes are dominated by outside buyers; Penryn and Bodmin are predominantly local markets. And for all their Cornish sensitivities, even the locals change once they have a foot on the ladder, as both Mr Lillcrap and Mr Haward point out. "Emmett" is no longer a dirty word. Tel that to the Commission for Racial Equality.

Joe Collins, tel 0872 75579; Miller, tel 0872 74211; The County Homesearch Company, tel 0872 22344; Martin & Buddell, tel 0872 42244.

Where is the oldest council flat?

Some of the country's most historic buildings provide public housing

An informal competition has started among the country's local authority housing managers: who has the oldest building on their stocks used as a council house?

Although most council houses in the country are postwar, local authorities have an eclectic mix of housing, including some of the country's oldest buildings.

The current contender for the crown is South Shropshire District Council, which owns eight council flats with 12th-century origins. The flats nestle inside the 12th-century walls of Ludlow Castle in Shropshire. The Norman castle's foundations

and keep were constructed in the 1090s but the outer walls were built around 1170, according to David Lloyd, a local historian. In 1810, a gentleman's manor was built inside the castle walls and, in the 1930s, the house was divided into flats.

After the war, the flats were sold by Lord Powys, the castle's owner, to what was then Ludlow District Council and is now South Shropshire Council. Last April, management of the flats

was handed to South Shropshire Housing Association, which charges rents of £28 a week for the two and three-bedroomed flats.

"We believe they are the oldest council-owned flats in the country," Brian Shepherd, housing manager of South Shropshire Housing Association, says. "There is keen competition for these flats among tenants."

Not only do their inhabitants live in a castle which once

housed the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the two princes later murdered in the tower, who lived there intermittently between 1473 and 1483; the flats are also wood-panelled with views over the castle's gardens.

But South Shropshire may be pipped at the post by Lincoln District Council. Writing in *Homing In*, the journal of the Institute of Housing whose letters' page has become an unofficial forum for the competition, Mr K. Scott, the council's housing manager, cites his contender for the title of oldest council house: the Jews House in Lincoln, which has four 12th-

century walls to beat the Ludlow Castle flats' historic outer wall.

"The house dates from 1170," he writes. "It is a domestic building built by Aaron the Jew, when the Normans were encouraging the Jews to finance trade in the city. It is now let as a shop with living accommodation."

Both claimants have no fear of Dover District Council, whose claim to council house antiquity is a relative youngster: a council house in Sandwich which started life in 1539 as a stronghold for Henry VIII.

RACHEL KELLY

PROPERTY BUYERS GUIDE

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BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (72349) 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** (4774252).
8.55 Olympic Grandstand, introduced by Steve Rider. Today's events are Swimming: men's 200m breaststroke; men's 400m and the women's 800m freestyle; Equestrian: cross-country phase of the three-day event; plus badminton, tennis and rowing. Cricket: a quarter-final match in the NatWest trophy. Includes News and weather at 10.00, 11.00 and 12.00 (s) (765875) 12.55 **Regional News and weather** (7054952).
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (28455).
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (19655725).
1.50 Eldorado (r). (Ceefax) (s) (99285813).
2.00 Olympic Grandstand. From Barcelona, diving, cross-country action in the three-day event and swimming. Julian Wilson introduces racing from "Glorious Goodwood". 2.30 **Country Club**. Goodwood Stakes Handicap, 3.10 **Sussex Stakes**. 3.45 **Scottish Equitable Richmond Stakes**. 4.15 **Tote Gold Trophy Stakes**. Handicap. Plus further coverage of a quarter-final match in the NatWest cricket trophy (s) (35688165).
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (710078). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster.
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Andrew Hare and Jill Dando. (Ceefax) Weather (639).
6.30 Regional News (691). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) 7.00 **Eldorado** (Ceefax) (s) (9558).



Beating alcoholism: Maurice Gibb of the Bee Gees (7.30pm)

7.30 Fighting Back. Maurice Gibb, a member of the pop group the Bee Gees, talks to Lynn Redgrave about his descent into alcoholism and his subsequent recovery. (Ceefax) (s) (875).
8.00 Olympics Today. Highlights include swimming, the modern pentathlon, cycling, the springboard diving final and the cross-country phase of the three-day event (4146).
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (1707).
9.30 CIA: Moving Targets.
 ● CHOICE: The last in the series proves to be the best, taking a look at some of the CIA's dodgiest enterprises in past years, particularly in Nicaragua and Iran. The programme is based on the first British television interview for Robert Gates, the present CIA director, but Gates is too PR orientated to offer many insights, except to say that the agency must change and be seen to change in the post-Cold War era. More candid are former CIA heads such as Admiral Stansfield Turner. Lamenting the messy Iran-Contra scandal he says, "I can sit back in my office and make a very deliberate, concerted decision to do the dirtiest thing I think we ought to do, just as well as some cowboy agent can make it in the field. In fact I can do it a lot better... You don't have to equal out control with inhibition." (Ceefax) (s) (14558).
10.25 Olympic Grandstand, including Gymnastics: the last disciplines in the men's team final; Weightlifting: David Vine provides the commentary on the lightweight final; Judo: the men's and women's middleweight finals. Plus news of three wrestling finals and the preliminary boxing rounds (350558).
12.00 Film: Cannon (1971). The pilot of the 1970s television series stars William Conrad as the portly private eye Frank Cannon. (410481) 6.45 **Roundabout** (1980/7) 7.00 **The D.I. Show** (1989/2) 8.30 **The Pyramid Game** (1987/8) 10.00 **Let's Make a Deal** (1928/7) 10.30 **The Bold and the Beautiful** (1982/2) 11.00 **The Young and the Restless** (57881) 12.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation** (1987/2) 1.00 **Another World** (1981/4) 3.15 **The Bold and the Beautiful** (1982/2) 3.45 **The D.I. Show** (1989/2) 5.00 **Facts of Life** (1978/2) 5.30 **Diff'rent Strokes** (1981/4) 6.00 **Love at First Sight** (1979/4) 6.30 **E Street** (1984/6) 7.00 **AM** (1982/2) 7.30 **Candid Camera** (1948/4) 8.00 **Battlestar Galactica** (1980/2) 10.30 **Doctor** (1985/5) 11.00 **Shores of San Francisco**, with Michael Douglas (145146) 12.00 **Pages from Skyline**.

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
 The numbers now appearing on each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These allow you to programme your video recorder in advance with a VideoPlus+ remote. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video tapes in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details, call VideoPlus on 0839 121204 (calls charged at 48p per minute plus 3p per call) or write to VideoPlus, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. VideoPlus+ (TM), Pluscode (TM) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

BBC2

6.45 Open University: Data Models and Databases (7070287). Ends at 7.10. 8.00 **Breakfast News** (5783962).
8.15 England (b/w). Football plays of the 1990s (r) (3949707).
8.20 Army Lives: Slow March Down the Alps. Women discuss their life in the forces (r). (Ceefax) (5067894).
9.00 Children's BBC: Defenders of the Earth. Cartoon (r) (1825146).
9.25 Why Don't You...? (r) (1828233). 9.55 **Playdays** (r) (2002504). 10.15 **Double Date**. Three comedians brave the obstacle course (r) (8408900). 10.35 **The O-Zone**. Cathy Dennis sings her latest single (s) (7593639).
10.50 Film: Dishonoured Lady (1947, b/w). Soporific psychological thriller starring Hedy Lamarr as a woman with a "passion" who is accused of murder. With Dennis O'Keefe and John Loder. Directed by Robert Stevenson. (1270281).
12.10 Holiday Outings. Gillian Reynolds visits Vienna (r) (7146542).
12.20 Michael Barry's Choice. Recipes for chicken (5796252).
12.30 After Hours. American entertainment magazine (98537455).
12.45 Henry's Cat. Cartoon (r) (79524504).
12.50 Fireman Sam. Animation (r) (79545097).
1.00 Olympic Grandstand. The cross-country stage of the three-day event, tennis, shooting, badminton and boxing, and news of the British men in the gymnastic team optional exercises. Including at 2.00 **News and weather** (3734542).
2.20 Cricket. Play continues in a NatWest trophy quarter-final match. Including at 3.00 **News and weather** 3.50 **News and weather**. (s) (1819639).
4.10 Children's BBC: Attack of the Killer Tomatoes. Cartoon series (r) (2261455). 4.35 **Tricky Tricky**. A series of a nine-part comedy series (r). (Ceefax) (5321639). 5.00 **Newsworld** (9158788). 5.10 **Five Children and It**. Second of a six-part adaptation of E. Nesbit's classic story (r). (Ceefax) (8656349).
5.35 Olympic Grandstand, presented from Barcelona by Desmond Lynam. Swimming: men's 200m freestyle, 4 x 100m freestyle relay. Modern Pentathlon: the riding final concludes this five-discipline event; Cycling: the men's individual pursuit final plus boxing, tennis and yachting. Cricket: quarter-final action in the NatWest trophy (s) (5819504).
7.50 The True Adventures of Christopher Columbus: Land of the Indians. Rick Barlowe, the latest explorer in episode two of this four-part mini-epic. (Ceefax) (s) (928233).
8.10 States of Mind: Sinking City. Philadelphia is the fifth largest city in the United States. On the edge of bankruptcy, plagued by drugs and homelessness, it is a breeding ground for violence. (Ceefax) (244875).



Living in her dead husband's shoes: Tilda Swinton (9.00pm)

9.00 ScreenPlay: Man to Man.
 ● CHOICE: Tilda Swinton recreates her androgynous stage performance of Manfred Karge's one-woman play. The story is simple, if weird. A young woman in Germany takes on the persona of her dead husband and in doing so earns a tidy living as a crane driver, survives Hitler's war and when the occasion demands, becomes a concentration camp officer, soldier and farm boy. Swinton, soon to don the trousers again in a film of Virginia Woolf's Orlando, gives an exhausting, virtuosic performance but whether the whole evening adds up to entertainment is another matter. Film-makers John Maybury's complex and layered methods are irritatingly tricky and there are times when Tilda's awful teeth and grotesque manners become a little too much to bear. (Ceefax) (s) (5252).
10.00 ScreenPlay Firsts: Bossanova Blues. Kieron J. Walsh's graduation film from the Royal College of Art is an award-winning off-beat romantic comedy. Three Irish misfits plan to cheat their way from Blackpool's gaming tables to Brazil (15320).
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (87562).
11.15 Cricket. Highlights of today's quarter-final matches in the NatWest trophy (s) (743146). 11.55 **Weather** (673900).
12.00 Open University: Born into Two Cultures (70108). Ends at 12.30am.

ITV

6.00 TV-am (3136639).
9.25 Junior's. Today's guests are Frank Carson and Rustie Lee (s) (1932827). 9.55 **Thomas News** (6974320).
10.00 Out of This World: Frisky Business. American comedy series about a teenager with alien powers (r) (s) (6991097).
10.25 Womsey. Canine adventures (6994184). 10.55 **ITN News** headlines (2342788). 11.00 **Ox Tales**. Animation (2352165).
11.25 Just for the Record. More record-breaking tests (r) (s) (6971707).
11.50 Thomas News (5089610). 11.55 **Thomas News** (5010784).
12.10 Allsorts. Entertainment for children (179078).
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News with Sonia Rusler and Nicholas Owen. (Crack) Weather (362184). 1.05 **Thomas News** (23719504).
1.15 Home and Away. (Crack) (586349).
1.45 A Country Practice. Australian medical drama (s) (578320).
2.15 Graham Kerr prepares a dip using fried squid (573829).
2.45 Take the High Road. Soap set in the Scottish Highlands (4426558).
3.10 ITN News headlines (4578271). 3.15 **Thomas News** (7961078).
3.50 Children's ITV: Cartoon Time (r) (6706829). 3.55 **Scooby Doo**. The animated wrestling champion rescues trapped astronauts (2257252). 4.40 **Fun House**. Madcap game show (r) (8304725).
5.10 Blockbusters. Teenage quiz hosted by Bob Holness (8716418).
5.40 ITN Early Evening News with John Suchet. Weather (180405).
5.55 Thomas Help with Jackie Spredley (r) (855368).
6.00 Home and Away. (Crack) (r) (707). 6.30 **Thomas News** (287).
7.00 Take Your Pick. Dick O'Connell hosts the yesho game show. With Julie Wilson (s) (1726).
7.30 Coronation Street. (Crack) (271).
8.00 Hope It Rains. The final episode in the comedy series starring Tom Bell as the irascible owner of a seaside waterworks museum. The fine weather continues to discourage visitors (s) (Crack) (7146).
8.30 Land of Hope and Glory: Country House Murders. Concluding Simon Brett's comedy series. Gloria (Sheila Ferguson) organises a murder mystery weekend at Beaumont House. (Crack) (s) (9981).



Lucky by name and by nature: Nicolette Sheridan (9.00pm)

9.00 Lucky Chances. Episode one of a three-part mini series, scripted and produced by Jackie Collins and based on two of her novels. The story begins in 1969 at the opening of the Santapelo hotel in Las Vegas. Lucky Santapelo (Nicolette Sheridan) waits for the return of her father, who has been in the service of the CIA. A streetwise kid, it is taken under the wing of the wealthy Clementine Duke (Mary Fraw). Continues after the news. (Crack) (s) (9078).
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Fiona Armstrong. Weather (19146). 10.30 **Thomas News** (556825).
10.40 Lucky Chances continued. Part two can be seen tomorrow at 9pm (892691). 11.30 **Hollywood Report** (s) (80707).
12.00 Film: From Here to Eternity (1953, b/w). Oscar-winning second world war drama about the lives and loves of American soldiers based in Hawaii on the eve of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Starring Burt Lancaster, Deborah Kerr, Montgomery Clift and Frank Sinatra. Directed by Fred Zinnemann (5693694).
2.15am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (r) (55479).
2.45 America's Top Ten. Rhythm and blues acts of the 1990s (s) (47450). 3.15 **Videoflash**. British designers Katharine Hammett, Zandra Rhodes and Helen Storey (82183130).
3.40 Quiz Night. Pub and club quiz (40192721).
4.10 Grand Ole Opry. Country and western music (r) (82376450).
4.40 Grand Ole Opry. Country and western music (r) (82390477).
5.00 Three's Company: The Charming Stranger. Jack (John Ritter) is suspicious of his new English neighbour (57566).
5.30 ITN Morning News with Brenda Rove (88353). Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Channel 4 Daily (3127981). 9.25 **Little Rosy**. Cartoon (r) (s) (1839349). 9.50 **Get Smart**. Spionage series (1839368).
10.25 Film: Yellow Jack (1992, b/w). Tedious medical drama, spiced with romance, about a marine in 1899 Cuba who volunteers as a guinea pig to combat yellow fever. Starring Robert Montgomery. Directed by George B. Seitz (6746504).
11.55 The Great Snake. Animated folk-tale from Zimbabwe (5085523).
12.00 Land of Hope: A House Divided. Paddy arbitrates during a strike (r) (47417). 1.00 **Sesame Street**. Early-learning series (s) (156165).
2.00 Film: They Met in Bombay (1941, b/w). Entertaining comic comedy about rival jewel thieves who fall in love. Starring Clark Gable and Ronald Reagan. Directed by Clarence Brown (186813).
3.40 After Arthur Minsky. Ed Port (Dandy Kenyon) becomes a health freak after the premature death of his best friend (6088981).
4.00 In Search of Scotland's Larder. Bannocks, porridge, oatcakes and shortbread (r) (900). 4.30 **Countdown** (s) (184).
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. A studio discussion on men who cheat on their pregnant wives and girlfriends (s) (4115833).
5.30 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon adventures (938891).
6.00 Kate and Allie. Review. The cast of the American comedy series step out of character and narrate clips from the past five seasons. With Susan Saint James and Jane Curtin. (Teletext) (349).
6.30 A Different World. Sister. Sister. Kim is upset when she learns that Whitley is her initiation supervisor (s) (829).
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow. (Teletext) Weather (907271).
7.50 Party Political Comment by the Green party (183233).
8.00 Brookside. Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (s) (578).
8.30 The World in a Garden. Plant Hunting Botanists painstakingly ferret the exotic species at Biddulph Grange. (Teletext) (s) (7523).



Nature or nurture: is sexuality destined at birth? (9.00pm)

9.00 Out.
 ● CHOICE: You don't have to be homosexual to find this lesbian and gay magazine show fascinating viewing. It's a different world out there and becoming more rather than less complicated. The first half of the programme, *Skin Complex*, reports on the problems inherent in espousing a particular macho image, that of the skinhead. In among some mildly titillating visuals of posing besides there are plenty of serious points about the race consciousness of the movement, the odd phenomenon of the gay, black skinhead and whether taking on the look can offer a form of protection from yobboes on the street. The second film, *Gay Sara*, is a light-hearted essay on whether homosexuals are born that way, as one Californian scientist claims, or actually choose their sexuality. (Teletext) (7720).
10.00 The Golden Girls: Dorothy's Prized Pupil. Dorothy (Beatrice Arthur) feels responsible when a student is threatened with deportation (r). (Teletext) (17788).
10.30 Absolutely, Offbeat comedy series (155707).
11.05 Mojo Working.
 ● CHOICE: The series tracing the roots of modern music continues with tonight's scrapbook of critical comment, archive footage and intriguing anecdote celebrating 1950s rock 'n' roll showman Jerry Lee Lewis. Among the rapid-fire observations are artist manager Konda Mason's "he made black music palatable for white folk", Suz Quatro's summing up of his marital life, "he was the Henry of rock 'n' roll", and journalist Cliff White's polemic story about John Lennon - "I wish what you're doing with my boots boy" was Jerry's comment to Lennon after he'd just kissed his feet. There's also plenty of boogie to enjoy, though it's a shame not to see a little more of Lewis in his blonde bombshell hey-day (s) (824252).
11.30 Sticky Moments on Tour with Julian Clary. The flamboyant comedian is all at sea (r) (s) (102875).
12.00am Four-nations. Tonight's animated classics are John Schnall's *Good Night Norma*, *Good Night Milton*, in the Country by Chris Hinton and *Piotr Duma's Nervous Life of the Cosmos* (547634).
12.40 Film: Live Now, Pay Later (1962, b/w). Ian Hardy stars in this satire as an amoral fast-talking salesman. Directed by Jay Lewis (924059). Ends at 2.30.

SATellite

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
6.00am **Slippy** (45261). 6.30 **Mr Popper** (410481). 6.45 **Roundabout** (1980/7). 7.00 **The D.I. Show** (1989/2). 8.30 **The Pyramid Game** (1987/8). 10.00 **Let's Make a Deal** (1928/7). 10.30 **The Bold and the Beautiful** (1982/2). 11.00 **The Young and the Restless** (57881). 12.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation** (1987/2). 1.00 **Another World** (1981/4). 3.15 **The Bold and the Beautiful** (1982/2). 3.45 **The D.I. Show** (1989/2). 5.00 **Facts of Life** (1978/2). 5.30 **Diff'rent Strokes** (1981/4). 6.00 **Love at First Sight** (1979/4). 6.30 **E Street** (1984/6). 7.00 **AM** (1982/2). 7.30 **Candid Camera** (1948/4). 8.00 **Battlestar Galactica** (1980/2). 10.30 **Doctor** (1985/5). 11.00 **Shores of San Francisco**, with Michael Douglas (145146). 12.00 **Pages from Skyline**.

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
6.00am **News** on the hour.
6.00am **News** (590146). 9.30 **News** (82588). 10.00 **Dayline** (17629). 10.30 **Region TV** (92187). 11.30 **Japan News**. Today (385146). 11.45 **International Business Report** (4207684). 12.30 **Good Morning America** (90875). 1.30 **Good Morning America** (91004). 2.30 **Nightline** (14146). 3.30 **Our World** (28146). 4.30 **Region TV** (92187). 5.00 **Live at Five** (83542). 6.30 **Newsline** (18407). 8.30 **Region TV** (92187). 10.30 **Newsline** (65436). 11.00 **ABC News** (35078). 12.30 **Newsline** (61108). 1.30 **ABC News** (5854). 2.30 **Target** (25716). 3.30 **ABC News** (30721). 4.30 **Beyond 2000** (18672). 5.30 **Newsline** (11479).

SKY MOVIES+

● Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
6.00am **News** (590146). 9.30 **News** (82588). 10.00 **Dayline** (17629). 10.30 **Region TV** (92187). 11.30 **Japan News**. Today (385146). 11.45 **International Business Report** (4207684). 12.30 **Good Morning America** (90875). 1.30 **Good Morning America** (91004). 2.30 **Nightline** (14146). 3.30 **Our World** (28146). 4.30 **Region TV** (92187). 5.00 **Live at Five** (83542). 6.30 **Newsline** (18407). 8.30 **Region TV** (92187). 10.30 **Newsline** (65436). 11.00 **ABC News** (35078). 12.30 **Newsline** (61108). 1.30 **ABC News** (5854). 2.30 **Target** (25716). 3.30 **ABC News** (30721). 4.30 **Beyond 2000** (18672). 5.30 **Newsline** (11479).

THE NHS DO PERFORM STERILISATIONS. UNFORTUNATELY IT'S MAINLY ON BEDPANS. THERMOMETERS AND SCALPES.

Birth control is low priority in the Health Service. Fortunately, at Marie Stopes we have no waiting lists and no age limits for sterilisation or vasectomy.

Before you make this very important decision our counsellors will discuss its implications with you and your reasons for wanting it. If you feel you have made the right choice we'll arrange the operation as soon as possible, on the same day if that's convenient.

And the cost? Well, Marie Stopes is a private clinic, so we do of course charge for these operations. Since we're also a charity we keep this cost low.

If you'd like to discuss sterilisation or vasectomy call a number below. After all, since it is your right to have children shouldn't it be your right not to?

Freephone 0800 590390, London 071 388 5554, Manchester 061 832 4260 or Leeds 0332 440685.

MARIE STOPES HEALTH CLINICS



Revolutions in vasectomy can change your life. Why wait a lifetime for it?

12.00 Diamond Head (1962). Charlton Heston is the head of the world (11691).
1.00pm **Brands Star** (1990). Conal Smith travels around the world (32523).
4.00 **Black Cassidy and the Sundance Kid** (1969). The two main robbers try to stay ahead of the law (1451).
6.00 **The Death of the Incredible Hulk** (s) (10461).
6.30 **Twilight** (66828).
6.00 **Turn of Mind** (1989). A modern Romeo and Juliet set in Israel (24504).
10.00 **Spill Decisions** (1954). A family of four fight in and out of the ring (42487).
11.00 **Games of Desire** (1988). A man has trouble with his wife (49475).
1.00pm **Twilight** (66828).
4.10 **Enemy Within** (1990). An invader disappears (732059). Ends at 5.40.
THE MOVIE CHANNEL
 ● Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
6.15am **Rich and Strange** (1932, b/w). A couple inherit a fortune (17137).
6.15 **Gebebe**. Battle of the Bad Lands (1989). Animated adventure (85484).
10.15 **The Stranger's Man** (1954). A woman disappears (161725).
12.15 **Min Lambert Remembers Love** (1991). An old lady falls in love (45628).
2.15 **Life on the Move** (1991). A woman turns the tables on a capricious husband (1991). A man's girlfriend is left (134287).
8.15 **Days of Thunder** (1990). Tom Cruise stars in a racing drama (949341).
10.00 **Born on the Fourth of July** (1989). The true story of Ron Kovic (350416).
12.30pm **Entertainment**. 1990. A woman turns the tables on a capricious husband (1991). A man's girlfriend is left (134287).
2.00 **The Collector** (1965). A kidnapper holds an art collector (1965).
4.05 **Gumshoe** (1972). Albert Finney plays detective (790087). Ends at 5.30.
THE COMEDY CHANNEL
 ● Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
6.00pm **Mr Bean** (1990). 6.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 7.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 7.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 8.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 8.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 9.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 9.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 10.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 10.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 11.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 11.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 12.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 12.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 1.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 1.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 2.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 2.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 3.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 3.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 4.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 4.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 5.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 5.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 6.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 6.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 7.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 7.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 8.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 8.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 9.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 9.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 10.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 10.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 11.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 11.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 12.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 12.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 1.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 1.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 2.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 2.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 3.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 3.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 4.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 4.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 5.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 5.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 6.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 6.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 7.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 7.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 8.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 8.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 9.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 9.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 10.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 10.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 11.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 11.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 12.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 12.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 1.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 1.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 2.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 2.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 3.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 3.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 4.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 4.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 5.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 5.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 6.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 6.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 7.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 7.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 8.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 8.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 9.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 9.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 10.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 10.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 11.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 11.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 12.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 12.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 1.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 1.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 2.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 2.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 3.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 3.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 4.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 4.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 5.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 5.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 6.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 6.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 7.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 7.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 8.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 8.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 9.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 9.30 **Mr Bean** (1990). 10.00 **Mr Bean** (1990). 10.30 **Mr Bean** (199

TODAY IN BUSINESS

OUT OF LINE



Bad debt provisions are driving a cost-cutting technological revolution in Britain's banks that last year left 35,000 bank employees without jobs. **Page 21**

FLYING HIGH

Canada's two leading, and loss-making, airlines are expected to commence merger negotiations within days. **Page 19**

SOUR TASTE



Regional brewers have been rendered virtually bid-proof by political interference, Simon Redman, chairman of Greene King, claims. **Pages 18 and 19**

BETTER PR

Shandwick, the PR agency, has returned to profit but its financial position remains precarious. The interim dividend is passed. **Page 18**

CHASE ON



MCC administrators can pursue Barclays in the US courts for \$30 million paid to the bank. **Page 19**

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9275 (+0.0083)
German mark 2.8446 (-0.0006)
Exchange index 92.4 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1785.6 (+18.8)
FT-SE 100 2373.4 (+25.4)
New York Dow Jones 3311.92 (+29.72)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 15426.84 (+53.30)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month bill/bank: 10 1/2%
3-month strip: 9 1/2%
US: Prime Rate: 5%
Federal Funds: 3 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bill: 3.19-3.17%
30-year bonds: 10 1/2% - 10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.9274 £: \$1.9285
DM: £0.5429 DM: £0.7440
Sfr: £2.5182 Sfr: £1.3040
FF: £0.0175 FF: £0.9790
Yen: £246.83 Yen: £127.20
Yen: £2.3 Yen: £0.3
ECU: £0.71758 SDR: £0.750346
ECU: £0.393583 SDR: £0.32718

GOLD

London: New York
AM \$359.25 PM \$359.50
Close \$358.00-358.40
£185.80-186.30
New York
Comex: \$358.00-358.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$20.80/bbl (\$20.75)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 June (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Trends survey confirms that companies' post-election optimism has evaporated

CBI declares Britain deep in recession

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH industry is deep in recession with no recovery in sight and business confidence has slumped after the post-election surge of optimism, according to the latest survey by the Confederation of British Industry.

The bleak picture of falling output and orders contained in the quarterly survey of industrial trends adds to deepening gloom in the City over the state of the economy. It provoked Howard Davies, the new CBI director-general, to accuse the government of appearing powerless in the face of recession.

The results of the authoritative quarterly survey, which covers 1,291 companies responsible for about half of Britain's exports, challenge

the confidence in recovery expressed by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor.

The recovery firms expected in April has failed to materialise. The survey, conducted in the four weeks to mid-July, shows that 17 per cent of respondents were more optimistic than four months ago; 26 per cent, however, were less so. The negative balance of 9 per cent contrasts with the positive balance of 8 per cent shown in April.

David Wigglesworth, who is leaving the CBI economic situation committee after eight years as chairman, said political stability appeared to have brought no fundamental change in Britain's economic prospects, as both domestic and world demand remained

too weak. He said the economy could become locked in a "vicious circle", with no confidence to stimulate demand and no demand to stimulate confidence.

The survey findings have prompted the CBI to begin revising down its 1992 growth forecast from its optimistic-looking 0.9 per cent. The new figure is likely to show a further fall in output this year.

Mr Wigglesworth welcomed the government's success in reducing inflation and industry's in raising efficiency. But he said continued cuts in investment and plant boded "very ill" for Britain's competitiveness. "The recession is not yet over," he said. "The rate of decline has slowed, but we cannot yet predict when it will end."

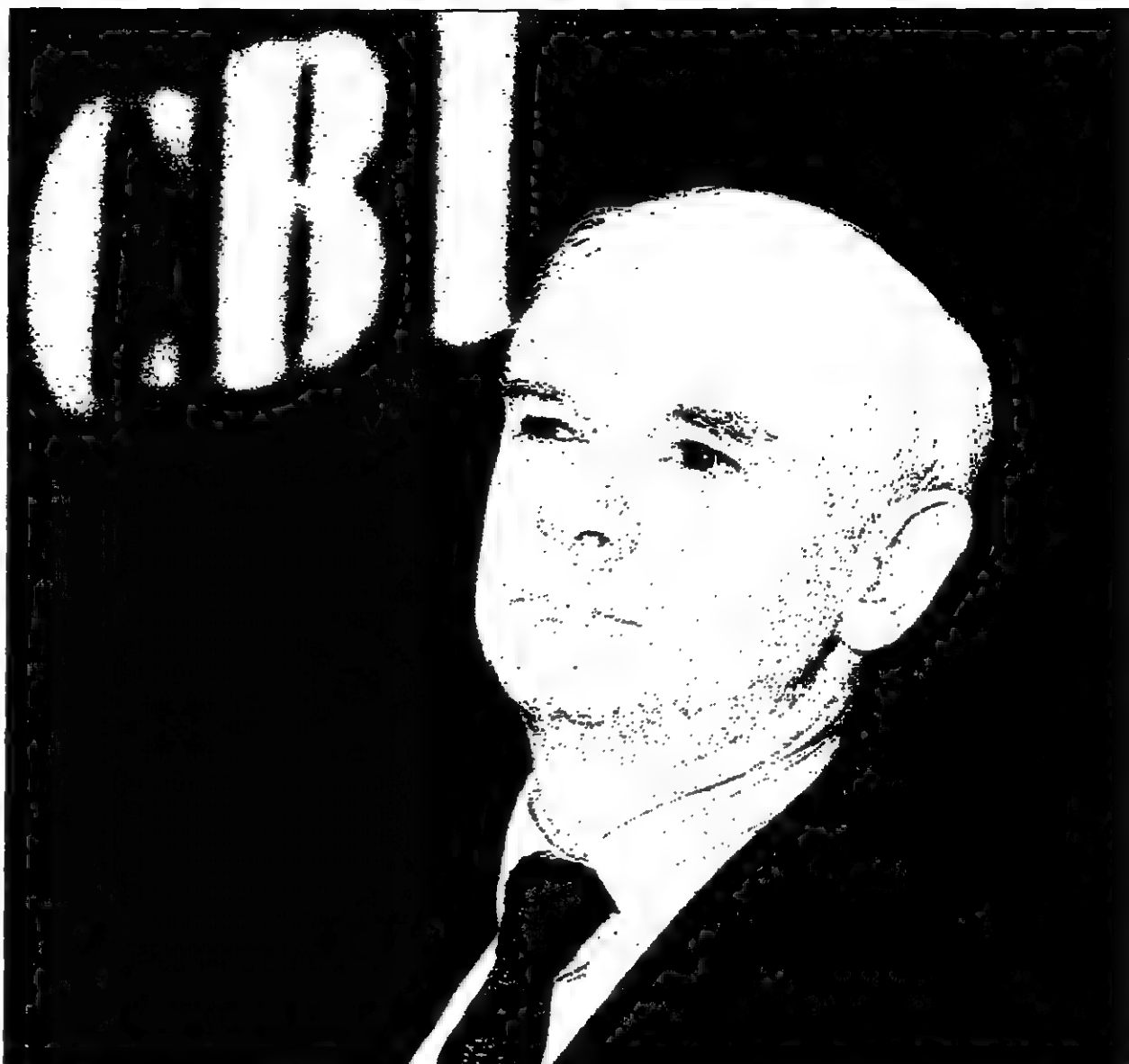
Mr Wigglesworth said incentives for industrial investment would be welcome. The CBI wants lower interest rates but recognises the limited scope available to the government.

Sir David Lees, chairman and chief executive of GKN, takes over Mr Wigglesworth's responsibility for economic surveys, said: "I don't believe the patient is anywhere near dying yet."

The survey shows that the volume of new orders is expected to remain broadly unchanged over the next four months, with export orders slightly up. Output is shown falling by 1 per cent in the second quarter after a 0.6 per cent drop in the first. A further 0.9 per cent fall is expected this quarter. This is much gloomier than government figures for manufacturing, which show output up 0.5 per cent in the first quarter.

The survey shows investment falling a further 3.2 per cent in the second quarter, after a 0.4 per cent fall in the first. But increases are expected in the third and fourth quarters. Job losses are expected to continue at the same rate as in the previous four months. Unit costs, however, were reported growing at their slowest rate since 1958.

Comment, page 21



Grim warning: the CBI's Howard Davies says the government seems powerless in the face of recession

Stevens to leave Invesco

BY NEIL BENNETT

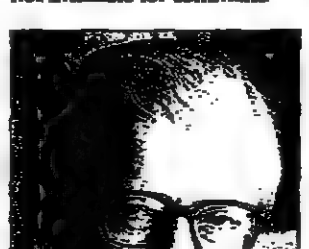
LORD Stevens of Ludgate, chairman of United Newspapers, has unexpectedly announced his resignation as executive chairman of Invesco MIM, the fund management group he created.

The company said he would stand down at the next annual meeting "to concentrate on his other business interests". Invesco MIM has not found a replacement, but has appointed Charles Brady, the head of Invesco in America, as group chief executive.

Lord Stevens' departure comes at a difficult time for Invesco, where pre-tax profits dipped 23 per cent last year to £14.5 million. Last month, the company was sued by the trustees of the Mirror Group Pension Scheme for £11.3 million. The trustees are alleging the firm permitted unauthorised stock lending.

Lord Stevens said at Invesco's annual meeting last month that the firm would vigorously contest the action.

Michael Perman, Invesco's company secretary, denied there had been any boardroom coup. He said: "This is a response to the Cadbury report, which recommended splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive. The roles were very much combined at Invesco." Lord Stevens was not available for comment.



Malcolm Wright, corporate and finance director at Allied Breweries, said while the first two conditions created no problem, the third could prove "a little more difficult". The amount of lager affected, less than 150,000 barrels a year, is relatively small, however. The venture is expected to produce 7.5 million barrels a year.

Mr Wright said both sides remained confident that the venture would still go through, hopefully this autumn. Analysts said the conditions imposed were unlikely to cause many problems.

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Lord Stevens: resigning

Nuclear Electric aims to cut 3,000 jobs over three years

BY DEKEE HARRIS

NUCLEAR Electric, the state-owned power generator that made a £482 million operating profit last year, is to cut more than 3,000 jobs over the next three years.

Higher operating profits are expected to continue until 1995 as output rises and operating costs are driven down by a cut in the workforce from 12,300 to 9,000 or less by 1995. The 48 per cent rise in operating costs in the year to last March was before £250 million was set aside to provide for job loss costs.

The Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, which represents manual and some white collar workers, said of the planned job losses: "These savage cuts come as a complete surprise to us."

Turnover was up 10 per cent to £2.4 billion but that included £1.26 billion from the "nuclear levy", which, by government edict, is paid by industrial and domestic consumers. Without this, there would have been an operating loss of £778 million.

A fresh attack on electricity price rises was led yesterday by ICI, one of Britain's main industrial groups, which told Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, that its Merseyside chlor-alkali operation was facing electricity price rises 60 per cent higher than last year.

Bob Hunt, managing director of ICI Chlor Chemicals, said a progressive and permanent loss of business in the chlor-alkali operation, one of

the largest electricity consumers in the country, was threatened unless electricity prices could be brought "rapidly back into line with international competition". He said: "The business simply cannot absorb this loss of its competitive positioning."

Professor Littlechild, director general of the Office of Electricity Regulation, has already written to National Power and PowerGen, the electricity generators, asking for an explanation of why electricity prices have risen sharply since May.

Large electricity users, through the Major Energy Users' Council, lobbying group, have complained of high prices while coal prices were dropping.

Brewing link terms imposed

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE £510 million joint venture between Allied-Lyons and Carlsberg of Denmark, hailed at its inception as "probably the best merger in the world", has found less favour with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and in Brussels.

Both the European Commission and the British competition watchdog are insisting on amendments and conditions to the terms of the deal to water down the competitive position of the joint venture.

Allied and Carlsberg will now have to negotiate with the Office of Fair Trading to reach a settlement. But indications from the Allied camp were that the deal would go through with the required amendments. The news hit the Allied share price, although the shares recovered to end only 3p lower at 602p as the market took the view that the conditions were not too onerous.

The venture is to be a merger of Allied and

Carlsberg's brewing interests, giving them about 17 per cent of the British beer market. As it stood, the MMC concluded, the merger "may be expected to operate against the public interest with the particular adverse effect that competition for the supply of beer, particularly lager, at wholesale level would be reduced". This could then lead to higher prices than if the merger had not taken place, the report concluded.

The link was referred to the MMC by Peter Lilley, then trade secretary, in March.

The conditions imposed by Brussels and the MMC are: □ That the venture will not worsen its terms of supply to existing customers who are smaller brewers or independent wholesalers for at least three years.

□ That the duration of the supply agreement between the venture and Allied's pubs be cut from seven to five years.

□ That existing Allied tenants be allowed to buy half their lager supplies from wherever

they wish after the merger has been in existence for two years. A dissenting view from Michael Beesley, professor of economics at the London Business School and one of the five-strong group that produced the report, said the merger should be allowed as it stood, as it passed the primary test of the net effect on the public interest.

Malcolm Wright, corporate and finance director at Allied Breweries, said while the first two conditions created no problem, the third could prove "a little more difficult". The amount of lager affected, less than 150,000 barrels a year, is relatively small, however. The venture is expected to produce 7.5 million barrels a year.

Mr Wright said both sides remained confident that the venture would still go through, hopefully this autumn. Analysts said the conditions imposed were unlikely to cause many problems.

Comment, page 21

Eighties design meets nineties slump

BY MATTHEW BOND

PORTERS South is an unlikely looking folly. But that is precisely what the converted warehouse in London's King Cross is threatening to turn into — an extravagant monument to an era long past — the eighties retail boom.

The building is also threatening to become the corporate headstone for Fitch-RS, the design group that spent £13 million converting it into offices suitable for their own use only to see the property slump of the early nineties reduce its value to a mere £6.5 million. Yesterday, Fitch asked for trading in its shares to be suspended, pending clarification of its financial position.

Appropriately for a building whose interior quality celebrates the largesse of

retail sales gone by, Porters South was financed with substantial amounts of borrowed money, debts that stubbornly refuse to go away. At the end of 1991, the company had net debts of £7.5 million, two and a half times its net worth.

The high street transformations that Fitch wrought in the past do still happen, but not often. Likewise, the building of shopping centres, a big money earner for Fitch in the recent past, is virtually at a halt. Heathrow's terminal four, another Fitch project, may be up and successfully running, but terminal five is stuck at the unprofitable drawing-board stage.

Rodney Fitch, group founder and chairman, knows only too well that the world has changed and has acted appropriately. Redundancy costs have featured large in the accounts for the

past two years. He said yesterday: "All our trading businesses operate successfully. Our problem is servicing our debt and our properties." Fitch is still paying rent on the Soho premises it vacated to move to King Cross. Mr Fitch is negotiating a capital restructuring, which would see an as-yet unnamed third party buying the King's Cross building, leasing it back and injecting new working capital into the company.

Although he admits there has been a deterioration in trading conditions since April's preliminary announcement, he remains optimistic that negotiations can be successfully concluded. "What I am doing is pre-emptive. I am jolly confident." So, for the time being, the Landmark Trust can put its chequebook away. Porters South is still in business.

The
ScottishPower
Shareholders
Meeting 5.30am,
Thursday 30 July,
BBC1.

For a 30 minute edited version of the
ScottishPower Shareholders Meeting, tune
into BBC1, or set your video recorder for
5.30am this Thursday.



ScottishPower

Maxwell administrator wins right to sue Barclays

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS, Britain's largest bank, could lose more than \$30 million after the administrator of Maxwell Communications Corporation, the collapsed media group, won the right to sue the bank in America. The administrator, Price Waterhouse, aims to recover a payment Barclays received from MCC late last year.

The High Court in London overturned a Barclays injunction preventing Price Waterhouse from taking action against the bank in American courts.

Barclays received the cash from MCC last November, three weeks after Robert Maxwell, the group's former chairman, died at sea. The money paid off an overdraft. Less than two weeks later, MCC was forced into administration and its creditors could suffer losses of up to £500 million.

FW is keen to recover the money and to place it in a common pool for all creditors. MCC crashed in December with liabilities of £1.5 billion.

The administrator firm believes that the payment gave Barclays unlawful preference over other creditors.

In America, courts can recover any payment made by a company up to 90 days before it seeks chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. FW argued that the case should be heard in America because the funds Barclays received came from

the sale of Macmillan Computer Publishing, an American company.

Mr Justice Hoffman said in his judgment: "The proper forum for deciding whether it would be unjust to apply the US bankruptcy code to this transaction is a US bankruptcy court in New York."

Barclays, which is owed \$50 million by MCC, is considering an appeal.

Banks are concerned that the decision will set a precedent for other insolvency cases, putting debt repayments from other troubled companies in jeopardy.

The judgment showed that Barclays became concerned about the state of MCC's finances in July last year, four months before Mr Maxwell's death. Its suspicions were aroused when the group failed to settle a foreign exchange contract on time. After that, the bank began to exert pressure to recover the funds.

In November, Richard Pelly, a Barclays corporate finance director, wrote to Kevin Maxwell, warning him of the consequences if the company's overdraft was not repaid.

"Barclays will take whatever action is required to recover its money," he wrote. MCC then repaid the overdraft.

Price Waterhouse is considering action against other creditors that received payments from MCC in the final weeks before its collapse.

Defeated brewer attacks City

By MARTIN WALLER

DRINKS groups are virtually bid proof on political grounds, the Greene King chairman said yesterday, after the defeat last week of the group's £104 million hostile takeover bid for Morland, the Abingdon brewer.

Greene King was publishing its delayed final results for the year to May 3, which showed pre-tax profits slipping to £21.9 million (£22.1 million) after lower property profits. An 8.1p final dividend, as forecast at the time of the bid, makes a total of 11.6p, a rise of 7 per cent.

Simon Redman, the chairman, attacked the City's unwillingness to countenance hostile bids. "There's no support amongst institutions for bringing together companies where it makes commercial sense. It's just too political. It involves closing breweries."

Mr Redman said that, for several key institutions which refused to back Greene King's convertible shares offer, the price was clearly not the issue because they had holdings in both companies. "The consolidation of the drinks sector which some commentators think is necessary is not going to take place. I imagine the big brewers are delighted."

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Drowning sorrows: Simon Redman is unhappy about lack of support for hostile bid

Canada's two largest airlines in merger talks

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

AIR Canada and Canadian Airlines, Canada's two largest air carriers, are expected to open negotiations on a merger within days.

The announcement that the two loss-making carriers will seek to join forces came on Monday after PWA Corporation, Canadian Airlines' parent company, broke off talks aimed at forging an alliance with American Airlines, the leading US carrier.

Canadian Airlines, known as Canadian Airlines International on the world market, sought the alliance with American Airlines after merger talks with Air Canada collapsed several months ago. Canadian Airlines said the talks with American Airlines floundered over a disagreement concerning "closing conditions".

Under the proposed deal, American Airlines would have acquired a reported stake of 20 to 25 per cent in Canadian Airlines, for about C\$200 million (£87.45 million).

Union leaders said the news that Air Canada and Canadian Airlines were again in talks was devastating, and predicted that up to 10,000 employees, out of the combined total of 35,000, could lose their jobs through a merger. There were also widely expressed fears that fares could rise. Both carriers have been slashing seat prices on domestic routes in a competition for passengers.

The federal government's Bureau of Competition Policy is expected to look closely at any deal that may emerge.

A merger would represent a major victory for Air Canada, the larger of the two carriers, which was, until recently, owned by the Canadian government.

Last year, Air Canada ranked 21st in the world in terms of passenger miles flown and Canadian Airlines was 23rd.

Air Canada operates just more than 100 aircraft, against Canadian Airlines' 88. Air Canada lost about C\$220 million last year and Canadian Airlines about C\$160 million.

Sharp fall damages Ashtead

By JONATHAN PRYNN

Ashtead, Britain's third-biggest plant hire group, has announced another sharp drop in pre-tax profits and has given a warning that there is no sign of a substantial nationwide improvement in market conditions.

The shares dropped 18p to 120p on the news that pre-tax profits for the year to end-April fell 42 per cent to £2.3 million on turnover of £30.8 million. At the peak of the economic cycle in 1990 the company made a £7.8 million profit.

But the dividend has been maintained at 4.125p after a 3.025p final and year-end gearing has been reduced to 43 per cent (72 per cent). All the UK profit centres made a profit during a year that saw 200 plant hire companies fail. Total capital expenditure was £7.8 million, in line with the depreciation charge, and net cash flow from operations was £5 million.

Peter Lewis, the chairman of Ashtead, said: "We have continued to invest in modern plant, facilities and personnel to ensure that we will be in a strong position to improve immediately our results when conditions permit. After nearly three years of pricing de-levering, our operational gearing is such that a 10 per cent increase in hire rates would more than double the profits of our UK plant hire business."

It was not possible to predict when the economic cycle would improve. The company must remain cautious, he said.

Hire rates have fallen by up to 30 per cent since the recession began. Mr Lewis said the company was seeing "enormous acquisition opportunities" and earlier this year came close to a significant deal that would have made the group the biggest in the sector. But Ashtead would wait for the right deal, he said.

BAe 'may have to repay cash'

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SOURCES in the European Commission say that British Aerospace may still have to repay the government more than £60 million after the Rover "sweeteners" affair of 1988 if the commission presses its case for repayment, plus interest. The figure, almost 50 per cent higher than the original £44.4 million the government gave to Rover to help wipe off its debts and make it saleable, takes into account interest charges.

The question of how much BAe may have to repay masks an internal dispute within the commission, where Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, is said to be isolated in his insistence that the interest does not need to be paid back. The case is turning into something of a *déjà vu* for Sir Leon, who saw his previous attempt to extract the money from BAe collapse under European Court of Justice scrutiny this year.

The court ruled then that the commission did not have the right to ask BAe to repay the money as the commission had based its decision on an earlier investigation into Rover and had not correctly opened a fresh state-aid case against the company.

Sir Leon reopened the investigation after the ruling and the new investigation is expected to demand repayment. He was determined to show that his team of investigators had got their case against the carmaker right.

Sir Leon was expected to be ready to launch his new demand on BAe on Friday, but other high-level commission officials have complained that, normally, interest accrued in state-aid cases also has to be repaid. The row over what exactly BAe should repay will now delay the decision until September.

HADLEIGH INDUSTRIES

Pre-tax Loss £1.15m
EPS: Loss 8.7p
Div: No final, mkg 1.25p

TINSLEY (ELIZA) (Fin)
Pre-tax £210,000
EPS: 4.72p (8.02p)
Div: 3.4p, mkg 5.2p

BLACKLAND OIL (Fin)
Pre-tax Loss £489,155
EPS: Loss 5.28p
Div: Nil (nil)

CAPITA GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax £1.77m (£1.38m)
EPS: 7.8p (7.1p)
Div: 2.1p (1.8p)

ALUKETT (Int)
Pre-tax Loss £1.18m
EPS: Loss 7.31p
Div: Nil (1.25p)

MITIE GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax £1.81m (£1.23m)
EPS: 11.8p (11.1p)
Div: 1.5p, mkg 2.75p

Final results. Previous year's

profits were £1.76m and earnings per share were 17.2p. Total dividend was 6.5p.

Previous year's profits were £300,000 and total dividend was 5.2p. Turnover and profits up in first quarter of new year.

Previous loss was £54,759 and loss per share was 0.72p. Losses this year include exceptional charge of £210,778.

Board expects to increase final dividend from 3.8p to 4.2p. Company has no borrowings, with £7.6m in the bank.

Previous profit was £740,000 and earnings were 3.42p. Restructuring to reduce costs is complete but trading remains difficult.

Previous total dividend was 2p. Trading remains difficult but turnover and profits are higher in first quarter.

"We have generated a record quantity of electricity, improved our productivity and increased our profit."

Electricity supplied up 7.5% to 48.4 TWh
Turnover up 10.4% to £2.4 Billion
Productivity up 12.5% to 3.6 GWh/employee
Operating profit up 48% to £482m
Market share up from 17.4% to 18.5%
Operating cost down 7% to 3.9p per unit²

I'm confident of a good future, both for nuclear power in the UK and for Nuclear Electric plc."

John Collier, Chairman.

Nuclear Electric plc is delighted to announce another excellent year. A combination of record sales and improved productivity has increased operating profit by 48%. We have significantly improved output from our AGR stations and our Magnox stations have continued to operate reliably. Oldbury has set a world record for continuous operation of a commercial reactor. Throughout our operations we have maintained the highest levels of safety. The Sizewell B construction project continues to make excellent progress towards completion both to time and cost.



Nuclear Electric

Losses at Allianz soar after US deals

ALLIANZ, Europe's largest insurer, has reported heavy extraordinary losses resulting from costly acquisitions in America and East Germany, but net profits are virtually unchanged on last year after investment income.

The company said that the first-time consolidation of Fireman's Fund, its American subsidiary, meant the group had to bear an underwriting loss of DM625 million. The share price in Frankfurt plunged more than 60 marks to new year lows on the news, dragging the DAX Index down.

But after extraordinary gains, fully consolidated group net profits were DM1.05 billion in 1991 (DM1.01 billion). Group premium income grew 27 per cent to DM48.7 billion. Allianz said that unfavourable economic conditions, intense competition and over-capacity were blocking a recovery of the American insurance market. The first-time consolidation of Deutsche Versicherungs, its east German unit, also resulted in start-up losses of DM625 million. The losses were the result of investments in data processing and communications equipment, the cost of training employees, high staff costs in general and low premium rates.

Of Allianz's total underwriting loss of DM1.78 billion, Fireman's Fund and Deutsche Versicherungs-AG together accounted for DM1.25 billion. In Germany as a whole, underwriting profit fell to DM421 million because of high claims in the industrial fire and car insurance sectors.

Whitbread optimistic

Sam Whitbread, the retiring chairman of the brewer, bearing his name, signed off with an optimistic trading statement at yesterday's annual meeting, saying that good weather and successful marketing had led to satisfactory trading in the first four months of the financial year. The A shares rose 7p to 417p.

"The performance of Whitbread Beer Company has been particularly strong, with substantial volume growth in a market which has been declining throughout the recession," he said. Sales of the group's Heineken, Stella Artois, Boddingtons and Murphy's brands were all well ahead of last year.

The slow economic recovery continued to hold back sales at Whitbread's restaurants and hotels, with trade volume broadly in line with last year. Sir Michael Angus becomes chairman at the weekend. Mr Whitbread continues as a non-executive director.

Kwik-Fit price slumps on gloomy profit forecasts

SHARES in Kwik-Fit Holdings dived 44p to close at 125p, wiping £74.9 million from the tyre and exhaust retailing group's market capitalisation, after brokers, including the group's joint broker, downgraded profits. Poor trading conditions have led Panmure Gordon to cut its profit forecast for the year to the end of next February from £36 million to £23 million, with the following year's forecast reduced by about £10 million to just above £30 million.

An analyst at Panmure said: "The tyre market is soft and Kwik-Fit is very operationally geared. People are feeling the squeeze and not buying tyres."

Phillips & Drew and BZW also reduced their forecasts, with analysts said to be trimming their estimates to between £23 million and £26 million.

Tom Farmer, Kwik-Fit's chairman, said tyre sales had been good in January and February in response to government tyre legislation, but had slackened in following months. He said there had been no uplift in sales in June and July and the fleet business had fallen off.

Kwik-Fit has suffered from a decline in sales value per customer and a small rise in costs. Analysts said this had combined with an overall shortage of money, which has seen people buying cheaper remoulds rather than the more upmarket tyre brands.

Kwik-Fit's shares touched a low of 117p at one time, but rallied before the close. Volume reached a relatively heavy 4 million shares. Avon Rubber lost 22p to 373p in sympathy with Kwik-Fit.

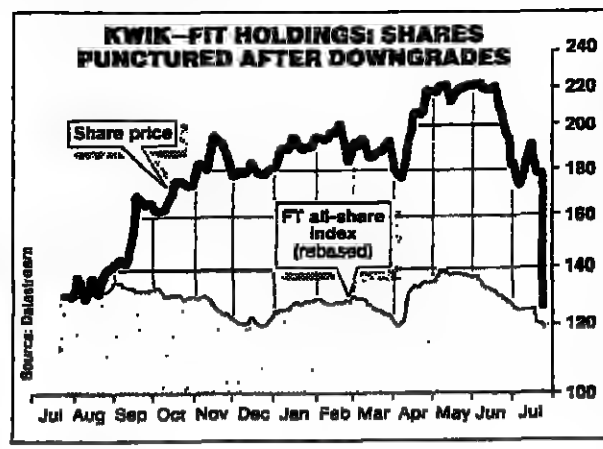
Meanwhile, a bleak CBI quarterly survey, showing a continued decline in manufacturing orders and output, had little further impact on shares, its gloomy contents already widely anticipated and discounted. Share shortages helped an early rebound, but a positive start on Wall Street.

Credit Lyonnais Laing is putting out a buy recommendation on Porvair, which makes microporous plastic materials for a variety of products, ranging from footwear to footballs. CLL forecasts full-year pre-tax profits of £2.1 million (£1.68 million) and says that strong earnings growth is expected from 1993 onwards as new products begin to generate additional profits. Porvair's shares were unchanged at 154p.

with the Dow Jones industrial average showing an early 35-point jump, fuelled sentiment in London. The FT-SE 100 index ended at its high for the day, up 25.4 points to 2,373.4. The FT index of 30 shares rose 18.6 points to 446 million shares.

Many in the market are confident of meeting the new conditions. Allied-Lyons reversed an early rise to close 3p lower at 602p, having recovered from 588p, on volume of 4.1 million shares.

The rest of the brewing sector was relatively buoyant after County NatWest issued a hefty note, praising the sector. County reiterated its long term



positive stance on Allied and Grand Metropolitan, up 1p at 415p, and is also bullish about Scottish & Newcastle, 9p stronger at 431p. The broker is neutral about Guinness, 21p higher at 534p, but takes a longer term negative stance on Whitbread, where the A shares firmed 8p to 418p after an upbeat statement at the annual meeting, and Bass, up 16p to 541p.

Elsewhere, Greene King, the Suffolk brewer which recently lost its battle to win control of its Morland rival, eased 1p to 474p after a small dip in full-year profits. Morland was unchanged at 418p.

The electricity generators were on the slide on the back of concern that the industry regulator may ask the generators to explain the recent sharp price rises, which could trigger a monopolies commission enquiry. National Power dimmed 10p to 232p, while PowerGen faded 11p to 245p.

Following last week's announcement of an expected loss for the year to end-September, Euro Disney continued to drift lower, falling 8p to 965p.

News that the European Commission is reviving demands for British Aerospace to repay the Rover "sweeteners" knocked 10p off the shares to 180p on a volume of 3.3 million.

The faltering recovery has led Smith New Court to downgrade profits for Diptera, the electronics and building components group, 11p lower at 268p.

PHILIP PANGALOS

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price % Chg

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Dow moves higher in early trading

New York — Shares were firm in early-morning trading, supported by mild gains in recent depressed overseas shares and some buying on technical grounds. The Dow Jones industrial average advanced by 8.8 points to 3,291.

Prices ended mixed after a range-bound session. The Nikkei index rose by 53.30 points, or 0.35 per cent, to 15,426.64. The market opened lower, bottoming in the first 16 minutes at 15,200.82, down 172.52 points from Monday's close. Most investors were absent because of the summer holidays or continuing disappointment with the market's lacklustre response to Monday's discount rate cut. Futures-linked programs set the pace. A firm yen and declining money rates gave support. Brokers said, turnover fell to about 170 million shares, compared with 227 million shares on Monday. Declining issues outnumbered rises by more than two to one, with 667 lower, 283 higher and 143 unchanged.

Frankfurt — Most blue-chip shares ended with small gains or fractional losses, but sharp falls in Allianz and Daimler-Benz dragged the overall market's value lower. The two shares — Europe's biggest insurance company and Germany's largest industrial group — together have a weighting of about a quarter of the 30-share Dax index, which dropped by half a per cent, or 7.45 points, to 1,610.64, wiping out Monday's modest gains. Sixteen of the Dax component shares ended higher and an additional seven ended with losses of less than two marks.

Prices surged more than 2 per cent, largely on a technical recovery, ending at the day's highs and recouping Monday's losses, brokers said. The Hang Seng index ended 118.24 points, or 2.09 per cent, higher at 5,782.63 after selling at about noon temporarily trimmed early gains. The index ended down 108 points on Monday.

The all-ordinaries index rose 62.23 to end at 3,116.37. Turnover fell to HK\$2.61 billion (£176 million) from Monday's HK\$3.43 billion.

Sydney — Australian shares closed only marginally down, recovering from their earlier lows in line with a rebound in Tokyo. The all-ordinaries index added 0.9 points down to 1,605.4, up about 6 points from its lows.

Singapore — Shares closed lower, but recovered from the day's lows on bargain-hunting in the afternoon. The Straits Times industrial index fell 9.81 points to 1,412.53.

REUTERS

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WALL STREET

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CBI declares the recovery dead

Symbolically, the CBI's quarterly survey has delivered the coup de grace to the prospects for a post-election recovery in the summer and early autumn. Those heady hopes of spring had already been fatally wounded by a series of gloomy economic indicators. Confidence among the CBI's manufacturing members has, in effect, lost all the gains shown in the April survey and although faces are not so long in some service sectors, manufacturers are fairly representative of business. Only the Chancellor, who had the survey before his weekend defence of policy, remains robustly cheerful.

The state of mind of those who make business decisions on output, investment, and orders from suppliers can be crucial in turning points. The best that can be said is that confidence matters less than it might have done six months or a year ago. When the basic ingredients seemed already to be in place, an upsurge of confidence could, it was thought, transform the outlook for the economy quickly, creating the V-shaped recovery that is the desired end-product of a monetary squeeze aimed at blowing away inflationary froth. That has long ceased to be a credible prospect.

The monetary squeeze has been superceded by the longer-term depressants of the fall in consumers' housing wealth, lower growth or lack of recovery in foreign markets and an exchange rate more suited to monetary goals than output growth. The latest fall in German inflation figures, while helpful to European interest rate prospects, show that industry still faces more pain if the one-off loss of competitiveness in 1990-1 is to be reversed, rather than merely stopped, through domestic discipline. The economy therefore faces, at best, the sort of slow cyclical recovery that emerges afterwards in statistics rather than in any swift change of atmosphere.

The government has already acknowledged, in its cuts in public spending plans, that recovery will not be rapid enough to make up the lost ground and will leave output lower than previously predicted for several years ahead. The CBI survey questions even these implicit revised projections. In its most gloomy contribution, it suggests that official figures may have underestimated the downturn over the past year and that manufacturing output may fall a further 1.9 per cent in the half year to end September.

Like others, the CBI wants the government to act, despite the self-imposed limits to fiscal or monetary stimulus. The economy is lean and has plenty of modern capacity. It simply needs more demand. If the government declines to stimulate demand, there is little short-term action it can usefully take.

Small beer

The vetting of Allied-Lyons' merger of its British brewing interests with Carlsberg retained a farcical element to the last. The European Commission, which nearly got round its own rules to conduct its own investigation, declared it would pass the merger subject to conditions. The Monopolies Commission damned the deal unless its was changed. Fortunately for Allied, the changes demanded were the same as the Brussels conditions, which were driven by the thinking of the British competition authorities. They have their teeth in the brewing industry and are not prepared to let go. In this case they want to force a weakening of the existing tie on Allied's permitted quota of pubs. This bulldog tenacity surely reflects the dubious outcome of original reforms, which have led, as many outsiders predicted, to a marked further concentration of the brewing industry.

In the second of his features on the banking industry, Neil Bennett traces the move away from paper chasing

An invisible revolution is taking place behind every bank counter in Britain. Battered by the impact of dwindling profits and insupportable costs, the high street lenders are radically reshaping their systems and management, often virtually reinventing their business in the process. The driving force behind the changes is the need to boost operating profits to cope with record bad debt provisions. But this is not merely an initiative to count the paperpills and lay off a tenth of the staff. The banks are undergoing the type of traumatic reorganisation that was forced on British industry a decade ago when the introduction of new technology and a rethink of manufacturing techniques left hundreds of thousands of workers without jobs.

The chief casualties of this revolution are the banking staff who are being asked to take voluntary redundancy or early retirement. More than 35,000 jobs were lost in the banking industry in 1991 and a similar number could go this year.

The big banks are expected to report record operating profits in the next two weeks, despite little or no growth in income. Smith New Court, the broker, forecasts that Barclays, Britain's largest bank, will increase operating profits before loan provisions by 15 per cent to £1.17 billion. National Westminster's gain is expected to be 9 per cent to £1.07 billion.

The challenge for the institutions is to combine the cuts with improvements in service. The target for a large part of the reorganisation is the ceaseless flow of paper between banks through the clearing system. Every day they exchange more than 17 million cheques and credit slips. Until recently, this forced the banks to operate like a sprawling cottage industry. Clerks in more than 11,000 branches spent their time reading, coding and sorting the payments.

The cheques can often travel hundreds of miles through the clearing system, only to end up at a hundred yards from where they were written. When a cheque is paid into a bank, it is sent to London to the bank's clearing centre where it is coded, sorted and credited to the customer's account. The next day it is exchanged with the issuing bank at the clearing centre run by the Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS) in the East End. The cheque then travels to the second bank's clearing centre where it is coded and sorted again. After that, it goes to the account holder's branch, which checks it a final time. The process is time consuming and expensive. Mis-

takes can creep in at half a dozen stages, creating even more cost.

In 1989, Midland Bank invested £50 million to centralise its payment processing in eight district service centres, which today are at the forefront of banking technology. The centres use Unisys sorting machines, which are capable of coding and proofing 60,000 items an hour, or 17 a second. Cheques written and paid by Midland customers are dealt with on the spot, saving work on 200 million items a year. While other cheques must still travel to London and back for clearing by law, the centres take account of the traffic speeds of every road in the country to ensure that deliveries arrive on time and the sorters run at full volume.

The centres have had a dramatic effect on costs and productivity in the bank. Coding errors have shrunk 95 per cent to only eight per million items sorted. The centres employ 1,200 people, compared with the 3,000 staff that sorted cheques previously, saving Midland at least £30 million a year.

Midland and other banks have introduced a similar time and money-saving system to handle cheque

book distribution. In the past, cheque books were sent from the printer to the bank's sorting office. From there they travelled to the branches, which sent them to customers. Today, the bank's computer automatically notes when a customer is nearing the end of his or her cheque book and sends the information to the printer, which dispatches the cheque book direct to the customer.

The upheaval in the banks is not merely being caused by the introduction of clever computer gizmos, however. The institutions have realised they need to change their culture to improve efficiency and service. Lloyds has been at the forefront of this overhaul, which is breaking down fossilised management structures and devolving power to the staff who deal with the customers.

The greatest inefficiencies in banks, just like manufacturing companies, are caused by errors and reworking. If a complaint is not settled immediately, the customer will complain again. If account operators do not have the authority to settle disputes, they have to pass them to

more senior management. A bank's regulations can force staff to spend hours on a problem that could have been settled in minutes.

Lloyds recently tackled this problem at its credit card centre in Southend, Essex, and the results have been phenomenal. In the past, about 35 per cent of staff time was being spent on repeating work, about the average for a service industry. Since the telephone operators and account handlers have been given authority to deal with accounts, this has fallen to 10 per cent, and the bank is planning to halve that. The improvement has allowed the centre to shed 300 jobs, a quarter of its workforce, at a saving of about £6 million a year.

Gerald Hawkins, the mastermind behind the project, has been asked to make the same changes in the bank's foreign payments and cheque processing systems. He said: "We have to change the culture. People at the most junior level can manage their own activities. The staff are very positive about the changes. If there tends to be a problem it is with the middle management who lose their authority."

In other areas, new technology is

reshaping the way people use their banks and the service they expect from them. The most dramatic trend in personal banking since the mid-eighties has been the spread of automatic telling machines (ATMs). Until 1980, ATMs were a novelty while the vast majority of customers still cashed cheques. Today, Britain has 18,000 ATMs, more than any other country in Europe, and they are used for more than 60 per cent of personal cash withdrawals.

The next ten years is expected to witness similar growth in debit card use. Debit card transactions increased 88 per cent to 360 million last year, and are predicted to reach 3 billion by 2000. Cheque volumes, by contrast, fell for the first time since 1945 last year, by 110 million. APACS forecasts that debit card use will overtake cheque volumes by 1996.

Banks are encouraging the use of debit cards and ATMs because they are cheaper than cheques. ATMs also reduce queues in branches and leave tellers free to handle more complex transactions and sell other products. Centralising cheque processing is allowing banks to redesign branches. Previously, the average branch allotted two thirds of the space to staff and one third to customers. These proportions are being reversed to create spacious banking halls where banks can position customer service staff to sell life assurance, pensions and mortgages.

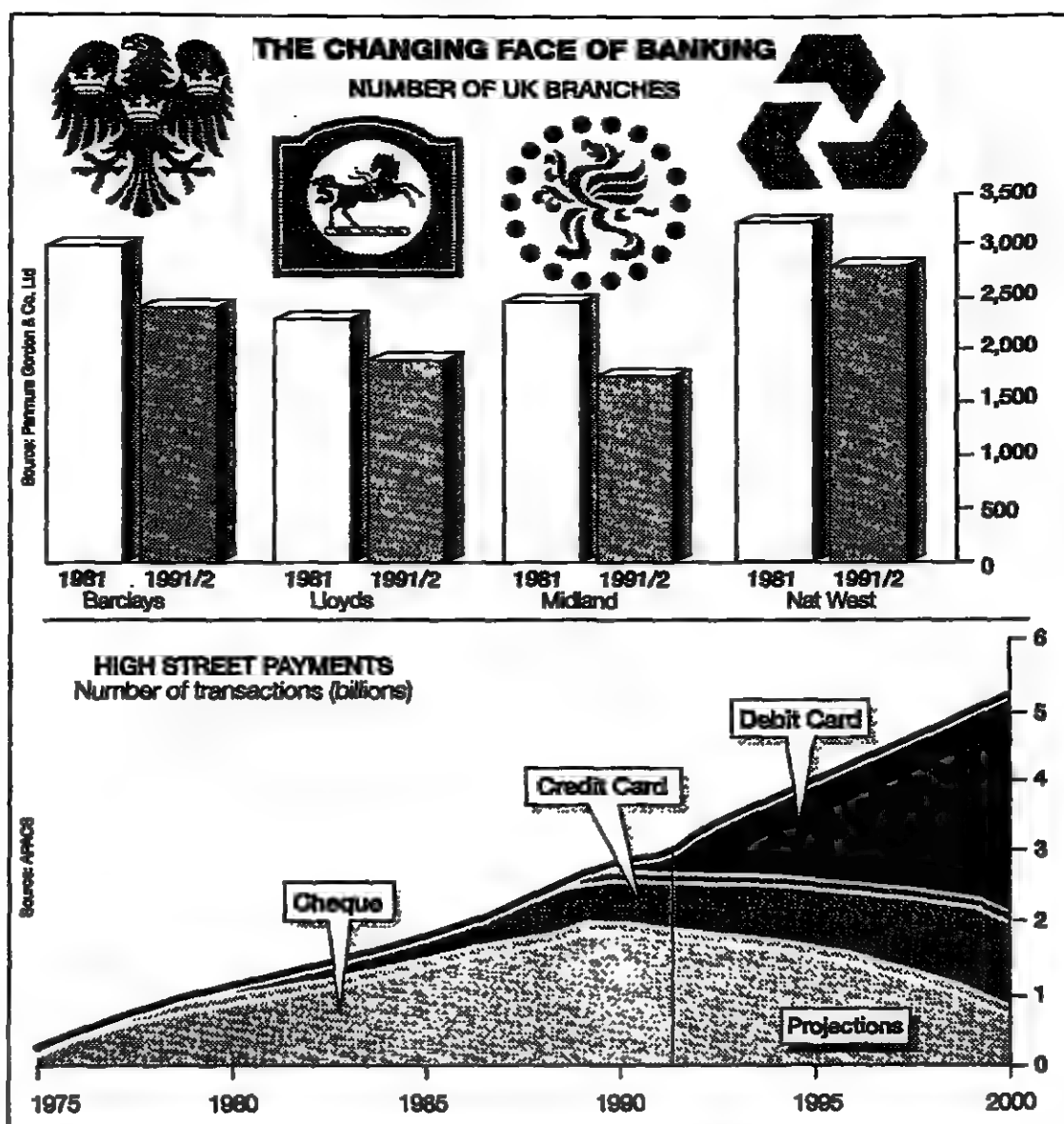
The new technology is, however, making bank branches redundant. Customers no longer go in to cash a cheque or ask for a statement, but use the ATM outside or the telephone. High street banks are finding it increasingly difficult to reach customers to sell other products.

The reduction in counter business is the main reason for the steady fall in branch numbers. Today, the big four have 8,856 branches, 19 per cent fewer than a decade ago. If the trend away from the branches continues the banks will have to step up their search for alternative business methods.

The most obvious is telephone banking, which will inevitably become a more important feature of the industry. First Direct, Midland's telephone bank subsidiary, now has 250,000 customers. Many of them are the young, high earners coveted by rival lenders. As a result, other banks are looking at opening telephone centres. TSB already has a computerised telephone banking service for ordinary customers.

All these upheavals and improvements may never have happened if the banks had not suffered such damaging reverses in the past three years. The flood of bad debts and the resulting collapse in profits have reminded the lenders of their frailty and the harsh forces of competition. When the banks finally free themselves from the legacy of their past mistakes, they will emerge leaner and fitter, ready to make their stand in the financial services market of the twenty first century.

Banks focus on cost cutting and efficiency in high-tech revolution



THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Pooling resources

THE part played by Robert Fleming's underground swimming pool in the success of the Wellcome share sale has not, so far, been remarked on, but should not be underestimated. Ian Hannam, a director and Fleming's new star, who masterminded the syndication, says the pool and other sporting facilities at Fleming's Cophall Avenue headquarters proved crucial in keeping syndicate members happy. "We had nine syndicates who all had to be here for 48 hours over the weekend. We had to talk to each syndicate separately and there was a lot of time some of them had to fill in between," Fleming laid out towels, copious amounts of food and wine, and invited bankers to take a break. Although Hannam did not manage a dip, he says he found it amusing how bankers from different countries lived up to their national image. "The Americans headed straight for the gym, the Japanese played snooker, the British swam and the Germans and the French used the sauna," he says.

Stitched up

TIMES are tough for traders in Marble Arch who are facing huge rent increases, but help is at hand from the newly affluent of Moscow. Dozens have been turning up at Charlotte's Embroidery on Edgware Road clutching copies of *The Times* and eager to hand over £12 each for Sherlock Holmes polo shirts. *The City Diary* reported earlier this year that the shirts had scored a hit with President Yeltsin



and the Russians are stockpiling them to sell at home. Now, Martin Barnett, who owns Charlotte's, is matching their entrepreneurial zeal. His other best-selling line is monogrammed tee-shirts for Viscount Linley's new Deals restaurant. He has obtained a copy of the Russian alphabet and his embroidery machines are busy spinning out names such as Boris and Natasha in Russian. Unfortunately, Barnett cannot comment on which names are proving to be the most popular. "It's been a great success but they just point to the letters and say 'this, this, and this'. I haven't a clue what they mean," he says.

Rhino run

IF YOU want to run in the New York marathon in November, and don't mind taking along a rhinoceros for company, you can secure a free air ticket by running on behalf of Save the Rhino, the charity that raises funds for endangered species. Gerald Scarfe, the cartoonist, has designed the life-size "human" rhino, which stole front pages at last

year's London Marathon running alongside a Jacobs Club biscuit ("Rhino-tested for thickness") and which helped raise £30,000 for the Samaritan Rhinos known as the "woolly rhino" because of its excessively long, thick body hair. The charity has ten tickets for anyone who will raise money on its behalf, with a target of about £3,000 per person. Those interested should contact David Stirling on 071 603 2832.

Welcome return

THERE were many who regarded it as a bad luck when Charles Hue Williams left Kleinwort, Benson Securities where he was joint managing director, after KB took an unfortunate position in Premier Consolidated Oilfields, just before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. KB lost about £30,000 on its stake and Hue Williams, a former partner in Wedd Durlacher, and widely regarded as one of the City's best and most likeable dealers, resigned. Almost two years later, he is to join Henderson Crosthwaite's main board as an energy specialist. Hue Williams, 49, has spent the past few years travelling and indulging his love of sport but says he "always wanted to come back to the City eventually". He has stayed close to the oil industry and insists that despite the Premier saga, he will not be inclined to steer clear of the company in future. "Absolute not," Hue Williams says. "Premier would be a stock that Henderson Crosthwaite would always want to follow as one of the major stocks in the oil sector."

DEBRA ISAAC

BUSINESS LETTERS

Industry rather than government should pay for training employees

From Mr William Watson
Sir, The Business Times of July 21, reporting on a survey carried out by the Industrial Society, comments that "industry's managers are taking the government to task because they believe too little is being spent on training". Training, who, for what, wasn't clear but one assumed it was managers for industry. In today's market economy, industry must realise it is up to them to train their own employees or even the employees to pay for themselves if it enhances their pay and career. Why should government pay for it? The government's responsibility, surely, must be with training or retraining the unemployed and ensuring school leavers are properly prepared for the market place. But even here I think industry has a responsibility.

Many of the unemployed lost their jobs because of redundancy, acquisition and the like and are perfectly well trained. They would be only too eager to replace the unemployed labour that industry claims to have. Yours faithfully, WILLIAM WATSON, Symonds Farmhouse, Chidrey, Wantage, Oxfordshire.

Taurus is a triumph of monopoly

From Mr Henry Bear
Sir, Mr John Watson, Taurus project director (Business Letters, July 23) adequately defends his anti-virus security precautions, in answer to Mrs Tyler's challenge (July 4). My misgivings are more over the "human virus", for, from the evidence, the fact remains that, in so far as one entry will originate all records and duplicate records of a transaction, so must one entry be capable of erasing them, and it would be out of the control of the investor to take any action, for he will have surrendered physical control of his investment to Taurus. The "statement" referred to by Mr Watson can never be more than what it says it is — a statement of a shareholding at a specific date — although for the shareholder it will still have to be treated as a document of value, in the same way as a certificate, otherwise, in the event of death, executors will have no knowledge of the deceased's holdings. On sale, it again becomes a worthless piece of paper, because a seller has to produce

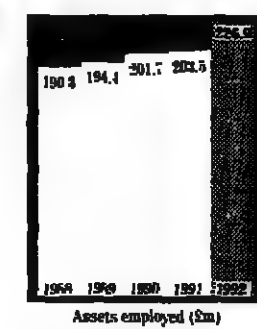
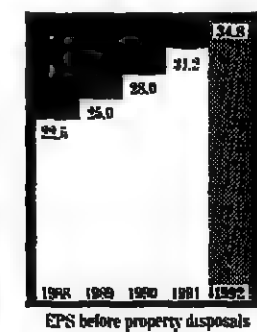
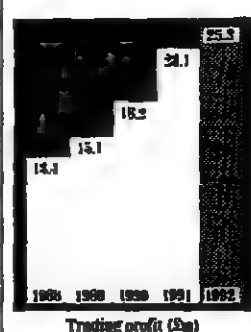
no evidence of his right to sell. It does still appear, therefore, that through malpractice and collusion — still human frailties, even in financial circles — a holding could be "borrowed" or misappropriated without the shareholder even suspecting any loss for months or even a year. I accept that Taurus could be convenient to computerised institutions, for whom, I suppose, it was basically designed, but I see it as a trespass on the privacy and rights of ownership of private investors for the convenience of the Stock Exchange: a triumph, in fact, for monopoly over the liberty of the people, supposedly in the name of progress. Yours faithfully, HENRY F. BEAR, Clare Cottage, Brade, East Sussex.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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Turnover	128.6	126.3	+2
Trading profit	25.3	23.1	+10
Profit before property disposals and exceptional item	19.7	19.1	+3
Profit before tax	21.9	22.1	-1
Earnings per share	48.1p	38.2p	+5
Earnings per share before property disposals and exceptional item	34.8p	31.2p	+12
Dividend per share	11.6p	10.8p	+7

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No	Company	Group	Share price
1	Kidwell Ben	Banks/Dis	1.00
2	Southcoast	Property	1.00
3	Southcoast	Property	1.00
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Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £5,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MUN	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Mr Frank T Hart, of St Leonards on Sea won the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	1.00	0.98	Bank of Scotland	1.00	4.5	11.4
2	1.00	0.98	Bank of Scotland	1.00	4.5	11.4
3	1.00	0.98	Bank of Scotland	1.00	4.5	11.4
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100	1.00	0.98	Bank of Scotland	1.00	4.5	11.4

BREWERIES

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	1.00	0.98	Bank of Scotland	1.00	4.5	11.4
2	1.00	0.98	Bank of Scotland	1.00	4.5	11.4
3	1.00	0.98	Bank of Scotland	1.00	4.5	11.4
4	1.00	0.98	Bank of Scotland	1.00	4.5	11.4
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20 (page) 74-1728 (pg 6), 1725 - European Radio & (6:30-22:10). Subram G B S I Japan gold or the Games A Di Doyne (n. 678 5 11220; n. Kozane 113323 am Samoa, Zam: Zambie.

Selkirk can reign supreme in Sussex

SELKIRK, at his best, is quite capable of winning the group one Sussex Stakes at Goodwood today. It is the same course and distance where he won his first race two seasons ago.

Since then, two performances have stamped him as a ruler of the highest class. The first was at Ascot last September when he beat Koooyonga, Shadavay and Second Set to win the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes.

Then at Newbury in May earlier this year, he put up a performance to match his fine looks by trouncing Lahib and Rudimentary in the Lockinge Stakes.

It is worth considering the exact merit of those performances. Koooyonga and Shadavay were both classic winners, were both reproducing their Coronation Stakes form to within a pound, while Second Set was the winner of the Sussex Stakes here last July.

In the meantime, Koooyonga has won the Eclipse Stakes while Lahib, Selkirk's victim at Newbury, has gone on to Royal Ascot to land the Queen Anne Stakes at the expense of Second Set and Sikistan. And remember Rudimentary entered the fray at Newbury

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

having already won the Forte Mile at Sandown.

That amounts to rock-solid form. Unfortunately, Selkirk then ran badly in his only subsequent race in France, where he started a warm favourite.

Afterwards it was felt that he might have swallowed a clod of earth.

Subsequently he was coughing. Given the requisite time in which to recover — he was not ready for Royal Ascot — Selkirk is now reported to be back on song again and worth another chance to confirm the excellent impression that he created at Newbury.

With Walter Swinburn claiming to ride Sheikh Albadou, Pat Eddery comes back from suspension to take over on Marling, who has won the Coronation Stakes and the Irish 1,000 Guineas since being beaten unkindly in our 1,000.

Seen in that context, Marling is roughly the equal of Koooyonga, who was put firmly in her place by Selkirk at Ascot last September. Nevertheless, the reports of Marling are good.

As for Sheikh Albadou, he could not win the twice that he was tried at seven furlongs last year. So I cannot see him lasting a mile now.

No matter how Thourier runs, his trainer Guy Harwood should leave the course a happy man having won the Scottish Equitable Richmond Stakes with Darbone, who is my nap.

A strong-finishing third behind Niche and Silver Wizard, after a fairly start, in the Norfolk Stakes at Royal Ascot, Darbone looks the type both on breeding and his style of racing to do even better over today's longer trip.

The form of that Norfolk Stakes has since been upheld by Niche running well under her penalty in that competitive Cherry Hinton Stakes at Newmarket before Silver Wizard won at Newbury.

The hard core of Darbone's opposition now comprises the promising maiden Canaska Star, who was such a creditable second to Wharf in the July Stakes at Newmarket, Pips Friede, three-and-a-half lengths behind him that day, and his stable companion Son Pardo, who has won his last three races.

Goodwood, 2.30 (m) 1. PHILIDOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 2. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 3. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 4. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 5. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 6. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 7. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 8. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 9. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 10. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 11. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 12. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 13. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 14. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 15. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 16. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 17. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 18. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 19. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 20. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 21. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 22. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 23. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 24. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 25. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 26. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 27. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 28. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 29. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 30. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 31. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 32. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 33. WARRIOR (M. Cooney, 4-1) 34. WARRIOR (M. 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TUESDAY JULY 28 1992

Briton edges closer to cycling gold

Boardman eases through to semi-final berth

FROM PETER BRYAN
IN BARCELONA

CHRIS Boardman, Britain's pursuit champion, is today two rides away from an Olympic gold medal after victory in the 4,000 metres quarter-finals at the Horta Velodrome last night.

He eliminated Jan Petersen a kilometre from the end — sweet revenge over the Dane who had knocked out Boardman in the world championship last August and then went on to win bronze.

Boardman's winning time of 4min 24.49sec was another world best to add to his 4min 27.357sec on Monday — then the fastest achieved on an outdoor track.

But his ride will not be credited as either an Olympic or world record — for that, a rider must be alone on the track. All pursuit rides took place with two men on the track on Monday to keep the opening day's programme tight. After that round, the competition was man versus man rather than man versus the clock.

Without detracting from his own superb contribution last night — the result of 12 months dedicated preparation, during which he received a *Times*/Minet award of £5,000 — Boardman also had the advantage of using the latest in high-tech bikes in his final four weeks' build-up.

Lotus Engineering — an arm of Group Lotus, better known for their motor racing associations — took up a frame



Simon Barnes, page 16
Rowers poised, page 26
Results and today's programme, page 27

design produced by a former racing cyclist, Mick Burrows, six years ago, which was only accepted for international competition in 1990.

This year, after preliminary work, Lotus agreed to develop the machine for the British Cycling Federation, just in time for the Games.

Last night, Boardman rode a Mk 4 version weighing less than 20lb. Wind tunnel tests had required slight changes in his racing position, the most important of which was to ride with his back almost parallel to the track.

He went through his usual 20-minute warm-up on track side rollers while his rivals competed in their heats.

Boardman appeared unconcerned when it was soon evident that weather conditions were even better than on Monday and last night's times were showing improvement of up to eight seconds.

There was a temporary interruption when, at the line-

up, Boardman's electrically operated starting gate failed to open. He circled the track slowly waiting for the defect to be remedied.

Once started, it was a one-man race. Boardman giving a marvellous display of smooth pedalling that immediately had his opponent trailing.

Like those before him, Boardman made mince-meat of his Monday times, going through the kilometre checks in 1min 9.11sec, 2min 13.67sec, 3min 18.13sec to finish with a new world outdoor best of 4min 24.49sec — almost three seconds faster than his opening round.

Today, he faces Mark Kingsland, of Australia, in his semi-final and then, if he wins, the victor from the Jens Lehmann-Gary Anderson match for the gold medal.

Boardman's wife, Sally-Anne, will be unable to see her husband until after the final because she has been suffering from a stomach upset.

She arrived in Barcelona yesterday and said: "I do not want to pass on the slight illness that I have had. I'll be able to watch him but not be with him until after he wins the gold medal."

She said that she had seen the first race on television and although she was worried that he had gone off too slowly, "he came through superbly in the second half of the race. I am so proud of him but then I'd be proud of him even if he were a dustman. Some athletes are prima donnas but Chris is certainly not that."



Chasing the leaders: Ian Rhodes and David Williams, of Britain, sailing to twelfth place in the first race of the Tornado class

Way ahead on day of mixed fortunes

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL

PENNY Way led Britain's medal hopes in the yachting regatta last night after counting a third and fourth in the opening races of the Olympic windsurfing class. Her performance in the testing five to 12 knot winds put her 0.7 points behind the joint leaders, Dorien de Vries, of Holland,

and Xiaodong Zhang, of China.

On the other courses, Adrian Stead and Peter Allum counted a second place in the opening race of the Flying Dutchman class. Stuart Childerley was third among the Finn singlehanders and Shirley Robertson, of Scotland, finished fourth in the Europe class.

There was considerable drama at the finish of the first windsurfer race, when a television crew wrapped the anchor line, holding the finish mark, around the propeller of their boat. Luckily, the incident occurred moments after Way had powered across the line to take fourth place, but the American, Lance Butler, was almost run over as officials

powered in to try to salvage the situation.

They merely made matters worse, for, instead of wrapping up the flag, they allowed both it and the television boat to drift away, and caused total confusion for the rest of the fleet. Many competitors finished on the wrong side of the committee boat and faced disqualification last night.

while others lost places, beating back up once a replacement finishing flag was flown.

There were some notable disappointments in other fleets, not least Lawrie Smith's fifteenth place among the Soling and the disqualification of Debbie Javis and Sue Carr for being over the line at the start of their first 470 race.

López-Zubero sends Spain delirious with delight

FROM CRAIG LORD

THE two Americans who lamented that two of their heroes who won eight gold medals between them at Seoul failed in their first bid to retain titles at the Bernat Picornell pool last night, consoled themselves with a world record relay swim of 3min 39.46sec in the women's 4 x 100 freestyle.

It was, however, Spain's night. Martin López-Zubero, who was born of a Spanish father and American mother, chose the right moment to reach the peak of his swimming career. In the presence of Queen Sofia, of Spain, he won the 200 metres backstroke to produce the biggest cheer of the swimming programme so far. The cheers turned to tears as Latin passions ran high for their hero.

The 23-year-old from Jacksonville, Florida, turned fifth at the halfway stage. But a blistering third length set him up for the title and an Olympic record of 1min 58.86sec, ahead of Vladimir Selkov, of the United Team.

Krisztina Egerszegi, the 17-year-old from Budapest who became the youngest Olympic swimming champion at when 14 at Seoul, collected her second title of these games.

Egerszegi won the 100 me-

tres backstroke in 1min 00.68sec, an Olympic record. Her team-mate, Tunde Szabo, was second, with Lea Loveless, of the United States, third.

The swimmers had been kept waiting for 20 minutes before their race by officials who met to decide whether the electronic timing had failed in the 100 metres freestyle for men, swimming's blue ribbon event.

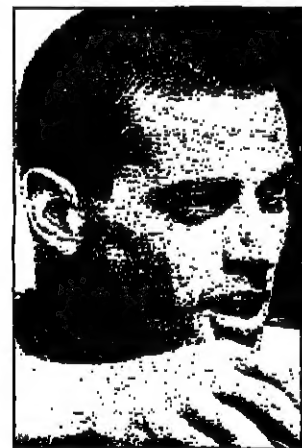
It had. But it made little difference to Matt Biondi, the 6ft 7in Californian who won five titles at Seoul. He dropped from fourth to fifth last night after Gustavo Borges, the Brazilian who trains with the Hungarian, Jon Urbanchek, in America, was moved up to second place behind Alexander Popov.

While there were doubts over whether the timing pad in Borges's lane had failed, there were none where Popov was concerned. Third place went to Stephan Caron, of France. He was the nearest thing that Britain had come to a medal: his mother is Glaswegian.

Popov, the 20-year-old from Volgograd, became European champion in 1991 three years after being chosen by a Russian talent scout. He did that in a style rarely seen. Not even Biondi had, in his heyday, an ability to use water like solid earth to propel himself apparently effortlessly forward through the water.

It was the first time the United States has not had a medal winner in the 100 metres freestyle since 1956. Biondi, 26, conceded that age had got the better of him, and said it was sad that finance is driving swimmers away from their sport rather than physical limits.

Janet Evans, aged 20, the American who won three titles in Seoul, lost her 400 metres freestyle title to Dagmar Hase, of Germany.



Biondi: well beaten

Following in footballers' footsteps

ANDREW LONGMORE

WHEN they enter the historic Montjuic stadium for the start of the athletics on Friday, the British team — and particularly those with Lancastrian connections — will be treading in some illustrious but unlikely footsteps. The Bolton Wanderers FA Cup-winning side of 1929 played Catalonia as part of the opening celebrations for the stadium 63 years ago.

Since the laying of its cornerstone in 1928, the Montjuic has become a symbol for Barcelona's Olympic aspirations and Catalan independence. Built in an unsuccessful attempt to win the 1936 Olympics, it did stage its own People's Games in competition with Berlin, though the festival was cut short by the onset of civil war. During the war, the stadium was used to house military forces and shelter refugees. Afterwards, it slowly fell into disrepair before being redesigned and renovated for these Games.

On their end-of-season tour, the Wanderers met the King of Spain and clearly

enjoyed the Catalan hospitality, but our Olympians might have to search for inspiration elsewhere. Bolton, including Pym, Haworth, Finney, Kean and Seddon, lost 4-0.

Shaved heads

THE controversial decision to deprive the American volleyball team of their victory over Japan and reverse the result seems to have gone to the Olympic champions' heads. As a protest and a sign of solidarity with the bald Bob Samuelson, who was at the centre of the storm, the entire squad shaved their heads for their second match against Canada yesterday. "This is a way to show our disgust," Bryan Ivie, the team captain, said. "It is so totally unfair — it's like they want us to lose." Surely not. Anyway, no prizes for guessing who played the Barber of Barcelona for his team-mates. Samuelson, of course.

Brothers together

The British selectors have clearly taken the notion of the Olympic brotherhood to heart. The Searies, Greg and Jonathan, in the rowing, the Whitakers, Michael and John, in the equestrian event, the Morgans, David and Anthony, in the weightlifting are all pairs of brothers, while canoeing boasts a whole family tree of Trains — brothers (Stephen and Andrew) coached by father (David) — and Lawlers — son (Ivan), father (Roland) and uncle (Peter), both coaches — and a brother-sister combination in Richard and Rachel Fox. Could the collective noun for canoeists now be a "tribe"? It is the sisterhood, though, which is to blame for the stifling temperatures in Barcelona over the last few days. The nuns of Catholic Clarissa order, according to ancient Catalan lore, have been praying to their founder, St Clara, for good weather in return for the customary fee of a few boxes of eggs from the Olympic organising committee. The sisters certainly seemed to have hit top form at the right time. After the wettest June on record, last Monday was Barcelona's hottest day of the year.

Duel returns

The duel is set to make a comeback, if some of the more radical Olympic shooters have their way. "Let's face it," one competitor said, gesturing down the row of marksmen, "this is boring." The duel, whereby two competitors shoot against each other at a target, with the winner going through to the next round, is one solution which will be looked at before the next Games.

Naff award

The *Times* Naff award of the day goes to the crew of the television boat who caused mayhem among the sailors by dragging the finishing line out of position.

Injury to Everett may help Black

The Olympic prospects for Roger Black, of Great Britain, took a turn for the better yesterday when Danny Everett, the favourite for the 400 metres title, said he was a doubtful starter because of an Achilles tendon injury. "I am hoping for the best but I am prepared for the worst," Everett said.

Everett won the United States Olympic trial last month when his 43.81sec established him as the second fastest in history. The role of favourite now passes to Steve Lewis, the defending champion. At this late stage the US team would not be allowed a replacement. The US 4 x 400 metres relay team would also be weakened by Everett's absence.

Double delight

Gill Clark and Julie Bradbury revived British hopes of winning badminton medals with a dramatic and unexpected triumph over the former World Cup women's doubles winners, Rosiana Tondian and Erma Sulistianingsih, of Indonesia.

The English national champions, who had landed the toughest of draws, responded with arguably the best performance of their careers. The Indonesians saved two match points at 14-7, two more at 14-

11 and then led 15-14, but Clark and Bradbury fought back to win 15-10, 4-15, 17-15. "That magnificent effort will lift the whole team," the British team manager, Steve Baddeley, said.

Magic wanes

A pulled tendon in his right knee, suffered during their win over Croatia on Monday, will keep Magic Johnson out of the United States basketball team for at least one game, and possibly three.

In the clear

An unnamed Spanish competitor, who showed a high level of the steroid testosterone in a routine doping test, has been cleared after a second test proved negative.

Pledge on stand

Officials promised yesterday to look into reports that the temporary stand at the swimming pool may be unsafe. "We have heard nothing of this," Pedro Palacio, a spokesman for the organising committee, COOB, said when told that journalists had seen the packed stand shaking. "But we shall look into it."

KATH PAX

Parry advises clubs to reconsider sponsor

PREMIER League clubs are to be asked by their chief executive, Rick Parry, to reconsider backing the brewers, Bass, or the Ford Motor Company as their main £10 million-a-year title sponsor.

Both offers were rejected this week because of an alleged conflict of interests between individual clubs and the new league, which gets started on August 15.

As that leaves little time for finding and negotiating with an alternative big-money backer, Parry, according to the Premier League secretary, Mike Foster, "is keen to resurrect one of the deals".

Both Bass and Ford seem equally reluctant to take "no" for an answer. "We are still keen to get involved," David Hunt, the Ford spokesman, said yesterday. "If the Premier League want to talk to us again, we will be happy to resume negotiations."

Bass echoed those sentiments, leaving Foster to say: "A lot of hard work went into putting the deals together and

it's encouraging to know that they are still very interested." The next meeting of the 22 Premier League clubs is not scheduled until September, but Parry may summon chairman sooner and ask either Ford or Bass — or both — to make a presentation and try to allay fears.

Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur, Nottingham Forest and Blackburn Rovers have lucrative shirt-sponsorship deals with brewing rivals to Bass, while Coventry are sponsored by Peugeot, who are competitors to Ford.

In addition, most leading clubs have separate, secondary deals with motor companies that could also be threatened by Ford.

Coca-Cola, meanwhile, who are linked with a near £10 million three-year Premier League involvement — will announce a big new football sponsorship development in London on Friday. Not that anyone was willing to say whether or not it is the real thing.

MORSE

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